**Tuesday December 24** 

# eGuardiai

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Inside: a special seasonal G2 with quizzes, prize crossward, Christmas TV & radio



Es A Honderful He: Feel-good

Brown seeks to remove breaks for high earners

## Fiancée facing murder charge

ig her flance in what ice initially identified as cad rage killing, was yes-rday freed on bail to pend Christmas with her

The prosecution failed at a private hearing before a judge at Oxford crown court to persuade the judge to overturn a decision by magistrates last Friday to grant her bail.

Andrews's solicitor said afterwards a "very signifi-cant new witness" to the killing of Lee Harvey had come forward. But West Mercia police insisted they were not aware of any fresh

Andrews, aged 27, of Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, had been held at Eastwood Park women's prison, near Gloucester, over the weekend. Her bail conditions stipulate that she return to her parents' home, less than 1% miles from the murder scene, and

not contact any witnesses.

Andrews — accused of
murdering Mr Harvey, aged
25, on December 1 — claims he was killed by the passen-ger of an F-registered Ford Sierra car who hurled racial

Mr Harvey was stabbed nearly 40 times in a country lane, near the coupie's home in Alvechurch. Andrews told a press con-ference that a fat man with staring eyes had stabbed her boyfriend to death.

However, at a court hearing last Friday, the prose-cution said foransic evidence connected her to the stabbing: three or four of her hairs had been found in Mr Harvey's fist and her jersey was spattered with his blood.

Speaking after the bail application, her solicitor, Tim Robinson, said: "She is grateful to members of the press for the response to the appeal which has been made. "Already one very significant witness



Tracey Andrews leaving Eastwood Park prison yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: DARREN FLETCHER

## Labour's 'fair tax' for rich

Alex Brummer Financial Editor

HE Labour Party is drafting a radical restructure of the tax system in an effort to introduce a greater degree of fairness into personal taxation. The plan is designed to land more revenue and assist a Labour chancel-lor to balance the nation's books without scaring the well-off.

The proposals, which the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, intends to unveil in February, will focus on removing some of the hidden tax breaks — worth billions of pounds — enjoyed by Brit-ain's highest earners. These measures are seen as

potential alternative to one idea — reported at the week-end to have been stamped on by Tony Blair — for a 50p in the pound income tax on those people earning more

tax have been taken. Both Mr Blair and the shadow chancellor are wary about Labour being branded a high tax party. Instead, they hope to shift the debate to fairness and the ability of the better-off to case their tax burden by diverting money into pensions schemes.

Higher income earners are also able to shelter tax from the exchequer by exploiting capital gains tax loopholes and through use of rollover relief, which allows entrepreneurs to them without penalties

Labour had initially intended to unveil its tax plans in January as a means of wrestling the political initiative from the Tories in the wake of the November bud-



in disarray over Europe and with its minority in the Commons, it believes there is no point giving Conservative spin doctors an immediate

By far the biggest potential source of income is changing than £100,000 per year. The the basis on which penetral funds are treated by the tax and decisions on the top rate of system where relief costs the system where relief costs the exchequer 28 billion a year. At present pension contributions, the most widespread

of the middle class welfare benefits, attract relief on the contributions made, the dividends earned, and the capital gains which arise from City events such as takeover bids.

This is seen as among the richest veins of income to be tapped into, in much the same way as the Tories have low-ered the thresholds and the tax bands which qualify for MIRAS mortgage relief.

The Conservatives began the process under Chancellor Nigel Lawson when tax relief on pensions contributions was capped at £82,000. How-ever, a Labour chancellor could potentially raise a huge amount of funds by ratcheting down the tax relief on pensions from 40 per cent — for upper band taxpayers earning £25,100 or more per year — and bringing it down towards the basic rate of tax. Such a move could be initially focused on the 120,000 people in Britain earning more than £100,000 a year, and gradually lowered. This would leave the principle of tax relief for pension in place, but would prevent the better-off

sheltering a larger proportion of their income for retirement. As part of its effort to dem-onstrate that it favours a fairer tax system, Mr Brown is determined to remove VAT on fuel which currently stands at 7.5 per cent. How-ever, to do this and keep the level of government borrowfinding new sources of in-come. The proposed one-off utility tax on electricity and water companies has already been committed to education and training programmes. So Labour has been searching

for new targets.
One possible area is tightening up on income qualifying for capital gains tax, which yields £1.2 billion a year. At present various reliefs mean the Inland Revenue loses a large amount of income.

## Peace breakthrough nears in Hebron

US envoy helps draw two sides together to hammer out Israeli withdrawal deal. Jessica Berry and Ian Black report

SRAEL and the Palestinians after talks in Cairo and jerusalem.

The Palestinian official to have clinched a dream through agreement on an said: "Ross will meet with Arafat at midnight... The ne-West Bank town of Hebron, breathing new life into the Middle East peace process on the eve of a Christmas deadline set by the American preside the set by the se

frantic negotiations, a senior to one of the most explosive Palestinian official said the Middle Eastern issues.

tiel the long-delayed deal.
Instrumental to the apparent breakthrough was Mr Clinton's special envoy, Dennis Ross, who was meeting Mr Arafat in Gaza last night

deal was imminent ne request.

guarantees that they will carry out the remaining elements of peace accords alments of peace accords alm

gotiators in Jerusalem will continue drafting the agreed points and the Arafat-Netan-

After weeks of warnings of renewed, bloody conflict in the Holy Land, and days of the Holy Land, and th

with a process whose momen-turn stalled under the previ-ous Labour government of the late Yitzhak Rabin and has become dangerously dead-

locked under Mr Netanyahu. Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have accused each other of footdragging in more than three months of talks on the city. 80 per cent of which was due to have been handed over to Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority months ago.

The delay became the focus

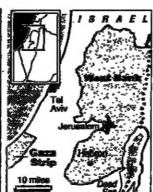
for fears that Mr Netanyahu had conceded as much to the Palestinians as he was going to. He has vowed to step up Jewish settlement. PLO officials said agree-

ment was emerging because the Israelis had dropped their Palestinian official said the Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, and the Palestinian president. Yasser Arafat, would meet today. The two were expected to initial the long-delayed deal. Instrumental to the apparent breakthrough was Mr.

Middle Eastern issues.

Middle Eastern issues.

Mahmoud Abbas, the chief to pursue Palestinian suspects into PLO-held areas. But the real key to implementation seemed to be readiness by both sides to give written guarantees that they will carry out the remaining elements of reactions are open, the last West Bank ments of reactions are open are the content of the pursue Palestinian suspects into PLO-held areas. But the real key to implementation seemed to be readiness by both sides to give written guarantees that they will carry out the remaining elements of reactions are open, the told Israeli to pursue Palestinian suspects into PLO-held areas.



ing a Hehron pullback to an Israeli timetable for three fur-ther troop withdrawals from rural areas of the West Bank. These were originally to have begun in September and be completed within a year.

By the end of the third pull-back, Israeli forces would be out of all areas of the West Bank except "Greater" Jeru-salem, Jewish settlements

with the current 4 per cent. The Palestinians, in turn, would give dates for carrying out their side of the peace ac-cords. Mr Netanyahu has in-sisted on a timetable for the completion of a new PLO charter that removes phrases about Israel's destruction; the disarming of Islamic mili-tants; the extradition of Palestinians suspected of attacking Israelis; and the closure of Palestinian Authority offices Mr Netanyahu. It would be in Jerusalem. Mr Netanyahu. It would be the first time he has dared to

Mr Netanyahu's top policy adviser, David Bar-filan, said the prime minister was ready to pledge in writing that he will implement the peace agreements signed by Mr tinians, two of whom were ar-Rabin. "We have said that we want reciprocity. We are per-fectly willing to commit in writing what we have said often enough, that we are committed to the Oslo process provided that the other side will discharge its obligations under the agreement," he

governor's office but officials declined to say whether final preparations for a troop withdrawal were under way. News of a possible break

through was greeted with angry derision by settlers. Their spokesman, Noam Arnon, said: "This is the end of the Jewish community in Hebron.' Evacuating Hebron would

be an important moment for do what Mr Rabin died for surrender areas occupied since 1967 to Arab rule.

rested. The soldiers enforced a partial curfew on an area around Jewish enclaves Belt Roads leading to the Jewish homes were also blocked.

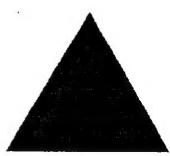
Israel announced yester

day that land in the Golan Heights will soon be sold for the construction of 96 settlers' homes — a move likely to fur ther strain relations with Syrla, which lost the Heights in 1967. It is demanding their return as part of a peace deal.

nent and Letters 8;



Turkey, broken fairy lights, relatives, turkey, chitty chitty, bang bang, relatives.



Yo-ho-ho.



Bass Best Selling Premium CASK ALE SINCE 1777

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Obituaries 10

## 'The rebels might have methods we disagree with but they are part of Peru'

Jane Díaz-Límaco on the Lima releases

vian guerrillas, Briton Roger Briton Roger Church celebrated yesterday with a glass of cold beer at home with his wife. Catherine, and his two sons. Looking fresh despite every-

thing, a smiling Mr Church said: This has been a difficult few days and I'm just pleased to be out and reunited with my family. My thoughts are still with those left inside."

Last night 140 people remained captive as the siege Tupac Amaru guerrillas entered its seventh day. They included the Peruvian foreign minister, Francisco Tudela. the former prime minister, Dante Cordova, several highofficers, and diplomats.

The treatment during my time was that there was no threat ... There was a threat in that they were carrying arms but at no time was any-body mistreated as far as I'm aware," said Mr Church. He added that he was held with

N HOUR after being | floor and was not allowed to freed with 224 other hostages by Peru- by about 19 mostly young and move about or go downstairs by about 19 mostly young and heavily armed rebels. The former Peruvian econo-

my minister, Gustavo Saber-bein, was among the 225 people released in what the rebels called a Christmas goodwill gesture. Conditions were appalling, Mr Saberbein said. The hos-

12 rooms and he was confined to a room measuring four metres by six with 38 other people, including a newspaper editor, Manuel Romero and the former employmen The rebels had lodged a table on its side against the window as a shield. "At night we were practically lying elbow to elbow, head to feet," Mr Saberbein said.

A great problem, he added was that of sanitation, with only six bathrooms at most among about 400 people. Por-table lavatories brought in by the Red Cross only partly eased the situation. The hostages organised themselves into teams to clean and to distribute food



The freed British diplomat Roger Church (left), watched by London's ambassador, John Illman, talks to reporters in Lima

Most of the time, Mr Saberbein said, was spent in politi-cal debate. "We spent hours and hours talking about polities and the economy either with the subversives or among ourselves."
He said almost all the hos-

tages felt extreme rage at the government for cutting off the water supply to the residence and disappointment at hear-ing President Alberto Fuji-

Mr Saberbein said that after hours of talking to the rebels: "There was a total change in people's attitude . . . The rebels agree with but in the end they are part of Peru."

Among those most frus-trated by the situation, he said, was the foreign minister, Mr Tudela, who had tried to telephone two secret numbers for the government pal-ace. When the minister identhe other end repeatedly hung up, said Mr Saberbein.
"I think the sovernment of Timelo Marrou, a professor "I think the government officials felt abandoned by the Other freed hostsges said

that each guerrilla patrolled the residence with a belt of grenades or explosives, pre-sumably ready to blow up themselves and their captives Uniformed rebels, some with shaved heads, strode through the corridors carry-

at Lima's Pacific University The hostages talked for hours with the guerrilla leader, Nestor Cerpa, only realising who he was after a

While the crisis for those inside may have been eased physically by the reduction of psychological pressure has

The rebels said they would review" the situation of the Asian and Latin American diplomats still held but would connected with government policy until Mr Fujimori ed around 400 jailed Tupac Amaru members At the residence yesterday

Red Cross officials continued to shuttle water, blankets, medicine and food into the building in the only apparent

### A merry night with girls in pearls

TV review

Nancy Banks-Smith

the night was Tanya Bu-chanan, twirling her long blonde hair into a topknot, telling the Country Life photographer, "You've got a cobweb on your crotch." He had, too. And so have more of us than care to admit

Tanya was what any other

magazine would call a pin-up. Country Life call their famous frontispieces girls in pearls. Like the mansions at the back of Country Life, the girls at the front are glossy, beautiful and you know you can't afford them. So stop dribbling. Technically celebrating the magazine'a pentenary, An Everyday St. - of Country Life (BBC 2) was lorious Christmas puo \_\_\_\_\_ a pro gramme. You pu. \_\_\_climathumb and pulled\_\_A Rec plums as the news they be Michael Heseltine re-Country Life in the base of according to Mrs Hesel

and crumpled." Tony Blair proved oddly elusive, though Caroline Feth erstonhaugh temptingly dem-onstrated a catflap shaped like the door of No 10 Downing

"It always looks a bit dam

Melanie Cable-Alexande (the names alone are worth the cover price) was inter-viewing Willie Forbes, a Scot tish taxidermist: "His accent is delicious but not that easy

to comprehend."
Willie surveyed a stuffed too clearly, "A charging buf-falo is considered one of the nost powerful laxatives in the

Back in the gutter, Brookside (Channel 4) is on fire. A pair of jeans tiptoes up the stairs of Casa Bevron and torches the place. Baby Kylie is flung from an upstairs window. Ron. built for staying power rather than speed st gers out with Jackie Corkhill in his arms.

Everyone assumes that Jimmy Corkhill, the resident scally, did it. Jimmy, adopting an unaccustomed air of intured innocence, claims, very plausibly, that he fell asleep watching telly. His stubble has reached unprecedented out that Bev, a woman scorned, did it.

known variously as No. 10 Brookside Close or The 'Quse of 'Orrors, is currently on the market for a tempting £25,000. What do you reckon? — bearing in mind that Our Little Jimmy was murdered there and child molester Trevor Jordache was found buried under the patio and I haven't

seen the dog lately: Emmerdale (Yorks TV) caught fire a day later. The squire, his wife and his wife's lover, Glover, were having their customary fight on the forecourt when they noticed that the nursery was on fire. Glover the lover rescued his son before he was felled by a flaming curtain rod.

And joined Jackie Corkhill in Casualty. Meanwhile, Simon Callow, wreathed in distracting whiskers, is giving An Audience with Charles Dickens (BBC 2) plenty of welly. Last night, The Murder of Nancy. I don't 6,000 new officers, we have lost nearly 1,000. At a time of rising crime this is not good know why. That's a story that never appealed to me.

## Howard fails crime and punishment targets

#### 'Hi-De-Hi' holiday camp to become a prison

holiday camp is to emergency prison as a wave of "not-in-my-backyard" protests has laid waste to the Government's plans for a crash building programme to meet rising inmate numbers.

Doncaster council yester-

day blocked plans for the prison service to turn a former RAF base into a tempo-rary camp holding 1,000 inmates, arguing that the South Yorkshire town is al-ready Britain's jall capital with four new prisons in

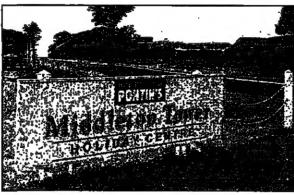
recent years.
A successful local protest movement.
Doncaster Against More Prisons, yesterday handed in an 8,000signature petition against

the new jail. The same "Nimby" backlash against new prisons has also stalled for more than four years the Govern ment's plans to open a £100 million national network of child jails, or secure training centres, to lock up per-sistent juvenile offenders. to new accommodation is sharpest for Home Office the use of expensive police planners trying to set up a

even satirists, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, is to house up to 'Hi-De-Hi style" chalets at the Morcambe Bay holiday camp at Heysham, a holiday village on the Lanca-shire coast.

The 62-acre site, once a second world war interu-ment camp, closed two years ago after many years service as a holiday centre. The chalets will be con-verted for use as a Category C low security closed prison with an austere environment, said prison chiefs yesterday. Last night the Director

General of the Prison Ser-vice, Richard Tilt, said he was pinning his hopes on the holiday camp and a floating prison ship to be moored in Portland Harbour, near Weymouth, Dorset, to avert a crisis in February. Both, however, need planning permission. The prison population reached a record 58,500 last



The former Pontins camp at Heysham

Mr Tilt yesterday admit-ted that "Nimbyism" was a big problem for the Prison Service. Doncaster's RAF Finningley has been blocked, and a planned new prison at Telford, Shrop-shire, lost, because of local objections. Other new jails at Walton, Liverpool, and Salford, Greater Manches ter. have been delayed because of local protests.
"We are getting pushed into more and more remote sites which are not entirely satisfactory and make maintaining family links week and is expected to for prisoners much surge again after Christmas. The only alternative to new accommodation is sharpest for Home Office

cells — an option already national network of secure censured by MPs. most persistent teenage of-fenders. They should have been up and running more than a year ago.

So far only one of the five contracts has been let and not a single brick has been laid. Planning permission has been refused for centres at Campsfield House, Oxfordshire, and Gringley in Nottinghamshire. Plans for the third at Medomsley, Durham, await the outcome of a public inquiry. The fourth at Onley, Northamp-tonshire, has yet to go through the planning pro-cess. Only one, Cookham Wood STC in Kent, has received approval.

#### Police numbers drop despite Tory pledge

Wales has fallen by nearly 1,000 since the general election, minis-have admitted, despite John Major's promises to put more on the beat.

The admission slipped out in parliamentary answers on the last day before the Christ-

Mr Major and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, have boasted about extra funding for the police and the disclosure will hit the Government's claim to be the party of law and order in the run-up to next year's general election. The 1992 Conservative manifesto promised to increase police strength by 1,000 officers. It was followed by the Prime Minister's pledge at the 1985 Tory conference to boost numbers by a further

5,000 over three years. But new Home Office fig-ures show that while there were 126,043 police officers employed in October 1992, the strength has fallen by 993 to 125,050 now. Chief constables have claimed Mr Howard has cut

spending on building and technology to pay for the first tranche of the extra 5,000 offi-cers. Richard Wells, the Chief has complained that a lack of resources has left all forces so overstretched that they are sometimes unable to send officers to serious incidents.
Police chiefs claim they are under increasing pressure to spend extra funds on new

We have found the resources to put over the next three years, not 500, but an extra 5,000 officers on the

October 1995 'We are well on track to delivering the first 1,000 officers promised last year'
— Michael Howard,
October 1996

John Major

Police numbers fell by 993 between 1992 and 1996.

— Home Office, December 1996

and stab-proof vests, and on new technology such as the creation of a national DNA The Home Office figures

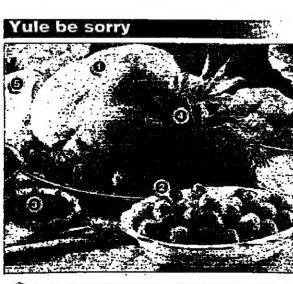
show that the Metropolitan Police has 755 fewer officers than in 1992, Merseyside has lost 416, South Wales 289, Avon and Somerset 64, and Twenty-four of the 43 forces in England and Wales have fewer police than they did after the last election. One force, Lancashire, has exactly the same number. Of the remaining 18 forces,

which have increased their numbers since 1992, for 10 the rise is by fewer than 70.
The largest rises have been in
the West Midlands — up 288
— and in Gwent — up 228. Mr Howard has boasted that he has made £20 million available this year which was supposed to pay for an extra 1,000 officers.

The Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, Alex Carlile, who put down the Commons questions, said: "The Tories have broken their 1992 manifesto commitment on police numbers. Now they look set to break another. We cannot believe them when it comes to bobbies on the beat.
"Instead of the promised 6,000 new officers, we have

## Turkey and trimmings on our dinner plates come stuffed with unpalatable chemicals

Alex Bellos



unhygienic, some will have been led animal protein and be suffering from chronic overweight.

Yegetables Unless you toy organic then your vegetables, especially carrots, may have traces of organophosphale-bas pasticides: Granberries Probably the safest thing on the plate.

Starffees May contain regetable suct which is nigh in hydrogeneted fet — at least as dangerous as estimated t Thrawy Can contain caramel colouring — too much can reduce while blood cell count.

ILLIONS of Britons ILLIONS of Britons
will sit down tomorrow for a Christmas
east of turkey with cranberry sauce and roast

Though considered traditional fare, the meal is a Victorian invention, and its main ingredients came originally from north America. To satisfy the huge demand

for this one-off meal, produc-ers are using increasingly intensive methods of production. Turkeys are reared in factory farms, vegetable are grown as hybrids, and soon many products will include genetically engineered crops. 'The Christmas meal is a good illustration of the globalisation process. In a very short space of time what

would keep millions fed is give to the overfed," says Tim Lang, professor of food policy at Thames Valley university. "We need to be aware that this enormous sucking sound of the vacuum cleaner of our collective stomachs has huge implications around the world." Turkeys - originally from

America — can fly in the wild at speeds of up to 50 miles an

grown in a space insufficient for them to stretch their wings fully. Even though not carni-

vores, their feed can contain meat, possibly poultry. They are bred to gain weight very rapidly and as a result many have impaired hips and legs. To minimise aggression be-tween birds, 10 per cent of chicks are debeaked — sliced off with a red hot blade or clippers — according to the British Turkey Information

Service. Only 2 to 4 per cent of the 12 million turkeys sold this Christmas will have been raised free range. Tim O'Brien, head of

research at Compassion in World Farming, said: "It is surely commonsense that ani-mals raised for food should be kept in reasonably hygienic conditions. Farm animal welfare and human health are in-extricably linked." Unless you buy organic, all the Christmas fruit and vege-tables you eat will have been

sprayed with pesticide. Cranberry farming probably uses the least. The cranberry is one of only three fruits native to north America (the other two are blueberries and Concord

is the Ocean Spray co-opera-tive, in Massachusetts. The highlight of the intensive farming process is a machine that bounces each berry over seven four-inch-high wooden walls. A cranberry's quality is measured by its ability to bounce, and those that fail the test are discarded. The vegetables on your

plate most likely will have been grown in Britain. After a scare last year concerning an organophosphate pesticide used to combat car-rot root fly, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods now urges consumers to peel and top carrots.

Half of carrots tested by the ministry contained residues of organophosphates, part of the family of nerve gases linked to Gulf War Syndrome, exceeding the "acceptable daily intake" by up to three times. Between 1 and 2 per cent had 25 times more than

"Most people who read about the effects of nerve gases would be shocked that the same group of chemicals are routinely used to grow a cludes cereals and most importantly root vegetables. says Joanna Blythman hour. Most of the birds eaten grapes), and it is most likely author of The Food We Eat.

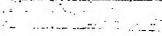
Lloyds Bank customers use TSB cash machines?

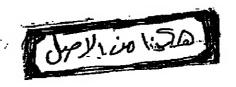
THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

That's use of an extra 1,890 cash machines free of charge. So now you are even closer to your money.

Bank







#### Succeeding with Shakespeare

## Firms' managers urged to the breach



New courses combining management theory with workshops on Henry V offer businessmen a perfect role model. Donald MacLeod reports

ing to launch company wran department to greater efforts are being encouraged to study the leadership qualities of Shakespeare's Henry V. For 2500, managers can sign on for two days at the Theatre of Leadership to fulfil their potential with a mixture

of Shakespeare and manage-ment theory — role play with a decent script for a change. They will receive a copy of the play and a video of Laurence Olivier's classic film of Henry V's successful export drive to conquer continental

The actor's son Richard is organising the workshops for managers at the Globe Theatre in London which will use scenes from the play to explore the latest ideas about 'new management" and

leadership. Mr Olivier, a theatre direcfor who founded Wild Dance Events, and Mark Rylance, artistic director of the Globe,



Richard Olivier: organising workshops at Globe Theatre

The play could illustrate internal company struggles or takeover battles, said Mr Olivier, who hopes to mount

similar workshops for law-yers using the Merchant of leader have to be a great actor? The king has to know how much he can bluff and

hide his fears to rally the mon man to get support. There seems to be a lot of act-We are looking beyond the hero. A lot of the old male ways of dealing with author-

ity are not working any more," said Mr Olivier. The course, which will end with a performance of the play, starring Mr Rylance as the king, is not just for gen

tlemen in England now a-bed - women managers are wel-come, as are foreigners, alattracting many French com-pany executives.

#### Presumably, references to 'rackets" and "companies unletter'd, rude and shallow

will be toned down. "Henry V poses many of the dilemmas faced by the modern leader," say the organisers. Managers require "strate-

gic vision and courageous pa-tience" and face the challenge of moving away from narrow implistic versions of leader ship, where position in the hi task done, to ones where leadership is devolved and shared throughout the organisation. Participants will be asked to pick a short speech to use

on the first day as a way of introducing themselves to the group. Twenty to 25 people re expected to take part are mounting the two-day course in March with the Office for Public about leadership before em-

barking with Mr Rylance and Mr Olivier on "an exploration of the theatre of leadership". On the second day, managers will try to identify where their leadership potential has

been blocked. "In addition to the experiential approach of engagement with the play, we will
also look at conceptual frameworks that may help to further your leadership potential." the organisers say.

In Gee of the Office for

Ian Gee, of the Office for Public Management, said many managers were looking for new and interesting ways of training, having complete their MBAs and Outward Bound courses. "I have built a bridge with the contents of

to do it again," he said. "Richard and Mark are interested in archetypal notions of leadership. The old version of leadership is power over people -- now it is power with people. It is a shift that managers often have great diffi-culty with."

my briefcase but I don't want

#### Enter marketing manager, stage right . . .

Henry V. Act 111, scene 1. As fearfully as doth a galled Be copy now to men of France, before Harfleur. O'erhang and jutty his confounded base, Swill'd with the wild and Once more unto the breach dear friends, once more; Or close the wall up with our English dead; wasteful ocean. Now set the teeth and In peace there's nothing so becomes a man stretch the nostril wide; Hold hard the breath, and As modest stillne

morn till even fought,

humility; But when the blast of war bend up every spirit To his full height. On, on, blows in our ears, Then imitate the action of Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-proof up the blood, Disguise fair nature with Alexanders Have in these parts from

And sheath'd their swords Then lend the eye a terrible for lack of argument. Dishonour not your Let it pry through the portage of the bead Like the brass cannon; let mothers; now attest That those whom you call'd fathers did beget you. the brow o'erwhelm it

And teach them how to war. And you, good

> Whose limbs were made in England, show us here The mettle of your pasture; That you are worth your breeding — which I doubt

For there is none of you so mean and base in your eyes. I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips, Straining upon the start. The game's afoot:

Follow your spirit; and upon this charge Cry 'God for Harry England and Saint George!'

### Crisis plan seeks to aid 4,000

James Meikle, Comn Affairs Editor

people will be offered medical checks, clean sets of clothes and haircuts as well as hot food, Christmas cheer and companionship by a national network of day centres and services opened

yesterday.
Doctors, dentists and hairdressers are among 2,000 vol-unteers expected to help staff 41 shelters run by the charity Crisis or with its help.

Music, sculpting, painting and other arts and crafts — as well as housing advice - are provided at some centres. while those queueing for the biggest, in Bermondsey, south London, which can accommo date 700 people, are being greeted by a unicycling

juggler. In London, there are mobile services, including health checks and food provided by the National Canine Defence League for street people's dogs, which are barred from the shelters, and there is a

women-only shelter in Hack-ney, east London. Thirty regional groups. from Aberdeen to Falmouth, Cornwall, and six London ocal authorities, are involved in the biggest programme run by Crisis, which also supports 34 winter and year-round

A recent report for the charity said average life expectancy for those living rough on the streets in London was only 42, but the Crists Christmas programme is aimed also at those sleeping in hostels, bed and breakfast hotels and squats.

Cathy Lee, the charity's winter services manager, said: "It is the worst time of the year to be homeless - the focus is on family, friends and home and many of the places homeless people use year round, such as day cen-tres, cafés and libraries are

"We aim to give homeless people a proper Christmas and offer vital services they are often denied. In past years, our medical staff have ound people suffering from tuberculosis, pneumonia and hypothermia.

up for donated clothes, rang-ing from tiger-striped boxer shorts to smart suits. don't want to give rubbish out," said spokeswoman

Fiona MacCallum.
"We want to give people back a sense of belonging. People don't want to be alone and miserable. The shelters are full of life, fun and people enjoying themselves.

'A lot of people who have been rehoused come because

they want to be with people they know and care for."

This year, the Government is funding 12 winter night shelters with 459 bed spaces in central London, and a 36-place hostel in Bristol, as part of a year-round pro-gramme to help tackle rough

#### On offer

Hot food; clothes; GP, dentistry and chiropody; hairdressing; housing and accommodation advice; arts, crafts, music and entertainment; (in London

## Major considers mass showdown with party Eurosceptics

Public conference would seek to expose critics as minority

Michael White

OHN Major and his closest allies are considering staging a public show-down with their Eurosceptic critics in the Tory ranks by calling a conference of MPs, ministers, candidates and local party chairmen to thrash out their differences in

ahead with his latest plan for ending the Tory civil war, he would summon his troops to a one-day conference at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre — across the road from the Palace of Westminster in the week of January 13 when Parliament returns.

Tory MPs, increasingly di-vided over Europe, would be invited along with selected candidates — who, according to surveys, are mostly right-wingers — and 600 or more

at local level. "John Major would just sit there on a stool and let the sceptics have a go at him. The idea would be to show they were a tiny minority," one senior MP said yesterday.

Mr Major staged a question and answer session on a stool at the Tory conference last at the Tory conference last October, when a series of conciliatory speeches on both sides of the Cabinet, especially a bravura performance by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, briefly made it appear that the party could unite behind the Cabinet's "wait and currency and its "partnership on Sunday when he described of nations" alternative to the controversy as one which

before polling day, Mr Major faces a hard core of critics, egged on by the rightwing Tory press, who believe that a flag-waving, nationalist elec-

est with John Redwood — Mr Major considered a show-down conference at the QEII Minister. rentre, but drew back.

Yesterday, Mr Redwood apdates and party chairmen at ate position in the opinion and showdown would have polls gives them hope.

1846 which split the Tory party over agricultural pro-

power for a generation. Mr Major, who is to visit India, Bangladesh and Paki-stan from January 8 to 12, has tion campaign is the only way
to save the Government.
In a previous leadership
crisis — which led to the conmight media, the third way
India, Bangladesh and Pakistan from January 8 to 12, has
been warned that the crisis
might necessitate cancelling cant overseas visit as Prime

the tiger.

hard-favour d rage;

constituency chairmen, who see" policy towards the single gloom was exposed on GMTV tic being deployed by other special significance because wield considerable influence currency and its "partnership on Sunday when he described would-be leadership contend of reports that at least 140 of nations" alternative to political integration.

But despite repeated efforts since to close down the issue the Corn Laws controversy of the Corn Laws controve lieve that even if Mr Major conceded that Britain would the 1997-2002 Parliament or

entry in 1999, it would not satisfy their party opponents.
"If we were to give them what they want, they would ask for something else," one minister said this week. The presence of the candi-

of reports that at least 140 MPs and candidates — "far more than that", Eurosceptics claim - are preparing to declare their opposition to a single currency in their personal election manifestos The policy is unlikely to change while Mr Major, whose robust "wait and see"

statements in public are offset by private waverings, stands firm with his deputy, Michael Heseltine, Mr Clarke and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. But sceptics be-lieve that the Tories' desper-



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SCOTTISH WIDOWS



## Dusk curfew tames young gangs

Tough policing | has impact, reports Peter Hetherington

eggs, bottles and bricks, were bad enough. But when shopkeepers complained of gangs ransacking their pre-mises, and old people were chased and threatened with knives in the afternoon. police decided that drastic action was needed on the Downham Estate in Catford,

Although children as young as eight were running riot, senior officers soon identified

Case 1

August 12 for harasen criminal damage and conditions included 9pm 7am curfew. Arrested following month for breach of bail. Found guilty, ordered to pay £50, and given community service and supervision order.

ganised than others, causing out-and-out mayhem with anti-social behaviour and seriously affecting the residents' quality of life."

troublemakers, the local Met-

Case 2

Boy, 13. Arrested on June 25, charged with £1,500 criminal damage and possession of knife. Given 7pm-7am curfew and geographical "exclusion order". Found guilty on October 31. Ordered to pay £10 compensation and given two-year supervision order.

first area in the country to experiment with a co-ordinated curfew drive as part of tough bail conditions. As such, it is a role model for even tougher legislation being planned by But rather than tick-off the Labour to extend curfews beyond bail.

a small group of troublenakers, invariably in their
early teens.

"They were making life magistrates to order them inpretty miserable for the lawdoors from dusk to dawn.

The anadow home secretary, Jack Straw, may have gangs. "They throw things inmet a torrent of abuse from gently when he floated the idea last autumn.
But he is adamant that a them." pretty miserable for the lawabiding majority," said
Superintendent Neil Doak.
"We were aware there was a races, has now become the bylaws under umbrella Com
But he is adamant that a them."

Although trouble on Downham began early in 1996,
bylaws under umbrella Compolice were bombarded with

munity Sefety Orders, if residents show there is a demand.
And Catford is the first step.

my colleagues say, it is a very socialist thing to do," insists the Lewisham East MP, Brid-get Prentice, who was peti-tioned by people on the Down-

children from the age of eight had attacked residents.

"Old people were chased and threatened with knives and chains in the afternoon, gar-dens uprooted, and wheelle bins set on fire — and shop-keepers had to contend with gangs intimidating custom-ers, ransacking and stealing." Behind the counter of his ironmonger's store, a shop-keeper — who declined to be named for fear of "intimida-tion" — said his business was

summer holidays when bus services were withdrawn Some locals believe they might now be experiencing services were withdrawn after a spate of attacks. Police responded by pairolling in unmarked care, using video cameras and what Supt Doak the calm before another storm — for the bail curiew is describes as a variety of other "sophisticated intelligenceto final court appearance, which can be several months But the local community policeman, PC Chris Sloan, gathering measures" to gain evidence against ringleaders.

Youngsters were soon arbelieves the curfew drive rested. But rather than send sends out a powerful m them to informal juvenile panels, officers opted for youth courts and insisted that offenders should be subject to "Shopkeepeers are telling me it is much quieter now, but then the 14 to 15-year-olds are getting more mobile and will dusk to dawn curiews as a condition of bail. "We had to condition of bail the had to condition of bail to condition of the condition of bail to the had to condition of bail to the had to move on. I just hope no one The local ironmonger still sleeps uneasily. "They might have dealt with the troubleidea. There was a reinctance

makers, but I fear their apbecause some of the charges appeared very minor. We were not bending the law prentices will be back next

**EU** move to lift fur ban challenged

JOINT attack has been launched by John Gummer, the tary, and Ken Collins, a senior Labour MEP, against attempts by the European Commission to lift a ban on the fur trade with north

America and Russia.

Leon Brittan, the European
Union trade commissioner,
has decided that a ban on
leghold traps should be lifted
because of a threat of trade sanctions from the United states. This goes against a de-cision by environment minis-ters earlier this month. They decided to ignore the threat and reinforce the ban which imported from countries

which use these devices.

Mr Gummer has protested to the commission, has said to the commission, has said he will vote against any deal made by Mr Britten and has appealed by letter to his 14 EU counterparts to remain firm.

Mr Collins, who chairs the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, said yesterday in a letter to Jacques Santer, the commission's president that he was

sion's president, that he was sure the European Parlia-ment would call the commission to account "The Euro-pean Parliament has

pean Parliament has indicated on many occasions that it will not be satisfied with anything less than a total ban on the import of such fur because it wants to see the end to the use of leg hold traps," Mr Collins wrote. The traps are used in the US, Canada and Russia to capture wild animals such as besver mink, sable and fox. beaver, mink, sable and fox.
They frequently break animals less but do not kill
them Beavers caught by such

traps underwater drown, be-cause they cannot reach the surface to breathe. The EU was due to ban the import of furs from the countries still using the traps from January I. but the US said this was a breach of the rules on free trade, and threatened sanctions if Europe did not relent.

Three weeks ago the 15 EU environment ministers deenvironment ministers de-cided the ban should stand. They told the commission to reopen negotiations with the three countries concerned and that, if it failed to reach a compromise on new rules on crueity, they would impose the ban from March 31. The Environment Commis-sioner in Brussels, Ritt Bjer-

sioner in Brussels, Ritt Bjer-regaard, attempted to carry out the instructions but was overruled by Sir Leon, who was backed by other commission members. He decided protecting Europe's free trade with the US was more important than a ban on leghold

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traps.

Mr Gummer said in his letter to the commission and fellow ministers: "I find it difficult to understand how the commission can justify acting in a way which is clearly not in accordance with the views expressed by the December council meeting."
The commission had been

given a mandate and must carry it out. If it failed to do so he would vote against any deal with the US and urge his colleagues to do likewise. Mr Gummer and Mr Collins

have re-opened two difficult questions. The first is: who or the bureaucrats? The second: how far do free trade questions overrule environment and moral issues? Mr Gummer and Mr Collins clearly hope to win on both points.

#### Ten jailed for ringside riot

TEN men were jailed yester-day for a riot which blackened the name of British boxing. The man all admitted charges of violent disorder at the world championship bout between Britain's Nigel Benn and Spain's Juan Gimenez at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, in Septem-ber 1994, which was televised worldwide.

The riot, which involved 28, and Paul Remore than 100 spectators, from Manchest began, when Birmingham for six months.

City and Manchester City football fans clashed. Mark Austin, 22, Peter Perryman. Austin, 22, Peter Perryman, 31, Robert Paddock, 27 and Thomas Gaynor, 35, all from Birmingham, Philip Waring, 24, of Olton, West Midlands, Gary Williams, 34, of Marston Green and Terry Jones, 24, of Northfield were jailed for three months. Thomas Williams, 41, Malcolm Reddican, 28, and Paul Redshaw, 38, all 26, and Paul Redshaw, 36, all from Manchester, were jailed

## Unionists deny Goldsmith deal

Trimble insists parties' alliance limited to European parliament

David Sharrock and Stephen Bates in Brussels

HE Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, yesterday insisted his party's support for Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party in the European Parliament had no bearing on business at Westminster.

The UUP's only European MP, Jim Nicholson, confirmed he was switching from the pro-EU European People's Party to the Europe of Nations grouping in the Euro-pean Parliament headed by the billionaire financier.

We will continue to vote in the same way as we do and have done in the House of Commons. We are not going to behave in a capricious or irresponsible manner in terms of voting ... We will consider each matter very carefully in terms of its implications and we will be voting as Ulster Unionists."

nation state, he added.

Mr Trimble said yesterday:
"There is no linkage between us and the Referendum Party.

European Parliament. The group lost official recognition last month when its numbers

Unionists were not anti-Europe but were against the drive to make it an integrated The recruitment of Mr

Nicholson gives Sir James'
Europe of Nations an unexpected boost to regain its
status and funding at the
European Parliament. The

fell to 17 after a French MEP.
Anne Christine Poisson, defected. To qualify for group status in the parliament and consequently extra funding for facilities and assistants.

They even had the brass rack to the property party pages 18. tants — a party needs 18 members if support is drawn

from three states.

Leaders of other groups claimed Sir James — an infrequent attender at the parliament — had been anxious for an alliance. Sir James's group last month denied claims by supporters of the Austrian ex-treme rightwinger, Jorge

treme rightwinger, Jorge Haider, that it had negotiated with them about an alliance. Pauline Green, leader of the majority Socialist group in the parliament, yesterday claimed that Europe of Nations supporters had been so desperate that they had even canvassed a tactical alliance with her group.

Mrs Green said: "They have

neck to offer me a deal under which they would support us on social and environmental legislation. In return they moving towards the centre of the chamber and away from the fascists. I sent them

packing."
Sir James agreed yesterday
with Mr Trimble that there were no strings attached to their new relationship. They do exactly what they like, but we're working in the same general cause."

However, when asked whether the UUP link would apply to Westminster, he replied: "We would co-operate because we are both seeking

#### Fears grow for safety of 'streetwise' girl missing five days

EARS grew yesterday for the safety of a girl aged nine — described by police as streetwise - who has been Chester for five days. Kayleigh Ward disappeared

following night when she realised that Kayleigh had not gone to stay at her auni's. Kayleigh, who frequently played truant from school, and was known to talk to vagrants in the city centre, was nicknamed "Oddbod" and

"Oddie".
"The fact that she is after being given 12 by a neighbour to buy chips from a Chinese chip shop 900 yards Detective Superintendent David Jones, who is leading

vaniage of vulnerable young girls. I am personally hopeful that we are going to find her, but as time goes on my con-cern is increasing."

The police hunt has focused on the Electer great where

on the Blacon area, where Expleigh and her family lived until October when they moved to temporary accommodation elswhere in the city. Over 70 officers, includ-ing dog-handlers, are involved and divers have

Friday afternoon; she had said she was going into Ches-ter to "hang around the town

centre".
Mr Jones urged Chester residents to search their gardens, sheds, garages and out-buildings, and any vehicles which had not been used for a number of days, in case Kay-leigh had decided to sleep rough Kayleigh, who has two older sisters, had gone miss-ing before but never over-night and would usually go to evening.

Her mother, Yvonne, did

"Sadly, there are people not raise the alarm until the about who wish to take ad
the search.

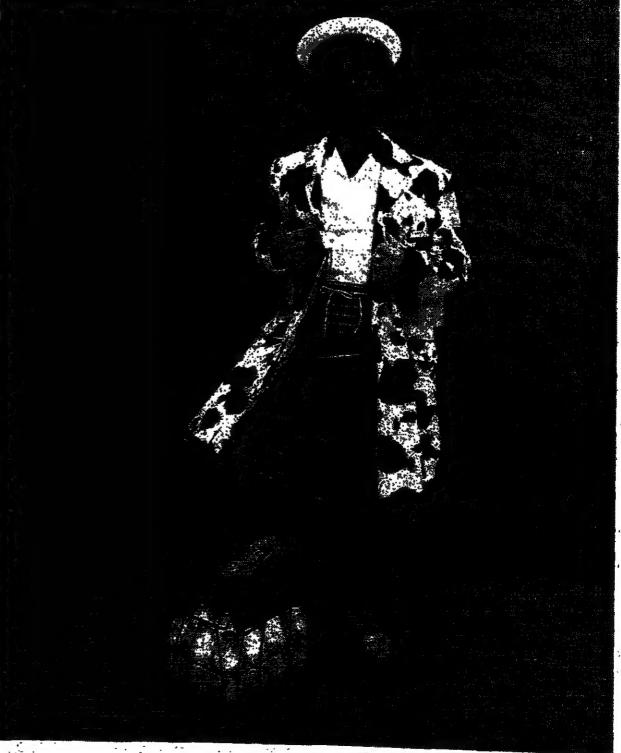
Searched a local canal.

Detectives said yesterday night and would usually go that a 12-year-old local boy stay with her amit he said.



So you're not Santa, Father? "Santa! That ludicrous, emasculated, overlaid powder-puff confection of Catholic mumbo-jumbo, Protestant puritanism and Western capitalism? Ho! I piss, belch and fart on Santa!" Father Christmas on the psychiatrist's couch

**G2** cover story



The Selfridges Sale starts early.

LONDON'S FIRST BIG SALE. STARTS FRIDAY 27th DECEMBER 9am

THE COAT ABOVE IS MADE FROM FUR FUR.

## Village pays price for summer hatred

David Sharrock visits predominantly Catholic Pomeroy, where there will be no Protestant children's carol walks and the few Protestant traders are being forced out by a nationalist boycott

dren singing Christ-mas carols is a tradition of the sea son and enough to move the hardest heart, but a village in the mid-Ulster county of Tyrone will tonight remain silent for the first time in

Pupils from the Pomercy First Presbyterian Church will not be following the local tradition of walking the pre-dominantly Catholic village on Christmas Eve and singing in aid of charity. Fear of attack is at the back of the minds of many parents, but the cancellation is the most telling reminder that North-ern Ireland has slipped from

HE reedy, untutored voices of chilision the depth of which has
dren singing Christmas carols is a

Two pre-Christmas attacks
Two pre-Christmas the first by the IRA in a

children's hospital, the second by loyalists against a leading republican - tell their own story about this butcher's shop there, is close season of goodwill but buried deeper below the surface is a ers have deserted him. more disturbing picture of two communities thrust everfurther apart.
This Christmas in Po-

meroy, Ulster's highest and therefore coldest village, the tradition of children's carol singing has already died. The cause of the hostility is tied up in the events of last summer - the worst marching season since the early 1970s — ing for old customers to come

pear to many to be the false promises of the peace process. Another tradition is under threat in Pomeroy. Robert Rainsy, the fourth generation of his family to run a butcher's shop there, is close

Mr Rainey, a 33-year-old Protestant with a wife and two young daughters, usually sells around 150 turkeys but this year he had barely 20 orders. He has been forced to take part-time work and his parents have come out of retirement to run the shop. But the family know they are wasting their time wait-

tant busines es which began after the violence at Drumcree, when Orangemen across Ulster rallied to Portadown to routed away from its traditional route through a Catho-

Mr Rainey can find no com-fort in the knowledge that he is not alone, saying: "Lisnas-kea, Castlewellan, Bellaghy and Castlederg, they've all been hit.

"It's been very well organised by Sinn Fein/IRA," he claims. "I've customers claims. "I've customers who've told me that they have Christmas to see if the people copped on to the stupid, evil thing that's going on, but there's no change at all. 'My family has been in Po-mercy for generations, but if

have to move." oy's Presbyterian minister, prays that Mr Rainey will stay on, but knows that the atmosphere in the village has turned sour — which is why he has cancelled the walking carol service tonight. "We don't want to put our young

"I would like to say that in and in harmony with each other, but sadly we might find that things are actually worse in 20 years. Like Mr Rainey, Reverend

Bingham is in his early thirties with a young family. There is one other Protestant ss closes we'll just family in the village, the Ramsays, and they are in the same boat. Their home heating oil delivery service was brought to its knees by the local boy-cott — which was effectively endorsed by the Catholic parish priest when he didn't speak out against it and people in the position of knocking on doors and people switched his order to a new company set up by one of his

most from concerned Protestants living in similarly hostile environments.

One 80-year-old Pomeroy Catholic who did make a stand and refused to stop buying oil from the Ramsays had of a long-te his house attacked and his oil

Few of them live in Pomeroy
now and there are only three
Protestant businesses left in
the village. He calculates that about ten 10 per cent of trade has returned since July. He says: "I think there was a gen-uine grievance about what happened at Drumcree, and

The Ramsays now survive there were also those who on orders from further afield, support Sinn Fein and it suits their political agenda." But he believes republican elements have now come in and organised and orchestrated

"It seems to me it's all part of a long-term strategy." he

Between 1992 and 1994 four tank sabotaged.

Rev Bingham ministers to around 120 families in the dered by the IRA. Now he dered by the IRA. Now he fears more will be lost -

either by bullet or boycott.
"It's very difficult for anyone outside Northern Ireland to understand how two groups who both claim to be Christians cannot live together," he said.

#### News in brief

#### **Customs stoppage** today at Gatwick

CUSTOMS officers at Gatwick airport are holding a 24-hour strike today. More than 80 officers staffing the green "nothing to declare" Customs channels were due to begin their action at

They are in dispute over the introduction of new working practices. Today's action follows a one-hour stoppage last week and will be followed by a 48-hour stoppage in the new year. The

A spokeswoman for Gatwick airport said she expected the strike to have no impact on Christmas travellers.

#### Nurses held in Saudi jail

TWO British nurses are preparing to spend Christmas in a Saudi Arabian jail after Foreign Office pressure yesterday failed to secure their release. The women, in their 30s, have been held in a prison in Dhahran since Friday. They are being questioned about the murder of Yvonne Gilford, an Anstralian senior murse aged 55, who worked with them at the King Fahd military hospital. Some 40 British staff at the hospital have been told they cannot

#### Pay rise for authors

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AUTHORS are to get a 35 per cent pay rise from public libraries. Public Lending Right rates will increase from 20 per book borrowed to 2.7p from January 13 for writers in the scheme. Most-borrowed authors — such as Catherine Cookson, Dick Francis and Ruth Rendell, whose books are all loaned out at least a million times a year — will be unaffected by the changes as the maximum payment per writer remains at £6,000.

#### Shake-up at Radio 1

the weekday drivetime show to Mark Radcliffe and Marc Riley, who currently present the 10pm-midnight slot. Goodier will move to Saturday mornings to "strengthen the weekends". Lisa l'Anson, who begins maternity leave this week, is to be replaced at lunchtime by Jo Whiley, who currently presents a mid-evening show. - Andrew Culf

#### D Shamoon and H Alwan

A REPORT of the trial of tax inspector Michael Allcock, based on Press Association copy, published on November 7, suggested incorrectly that co-defendants David Shamoon and Hisham Alwan faced 17 counts of corruption including charges of offering bribes of up to £150,000 and holidays to Mr Allcock in return for in fact, Mr Alwan faces three counts of corruption, which relate

to the provision of the services of a prostitute, and Mr Shamoon faced one count which related to the provision of one holiday, of which he has since been acquitted. The Guardian regrets the error and is happy to set the record straight.



Cara Weatherstone . . . stepped on copper pipe to flick switch

## Girl electrocuted as she switches on tree lights

Martin Wainwright

AFETY warnings were issued yesterday after a girl aged six was killed in front of her family as she switched on the fairy lights of a Christmas

Cara Weatherstone, described as a bright and bril-liant little girl died instantly at her home in Hornsea, East Yorkshire, after stepping on to a copper pipe to flick the switch on a table-lamp connected to the lights, bought four years ago.

Her six brothers and sisters watched in horror, and Fiona, aged 14, suffered a minor shock as she tried to push Cara free. Yorkshire Electric-ity and tradings standards officers are examining the

lights and fittings. Cara's grandfather, George Weatherstone, 67, said that all the children were sensible and "did not mess around with dangerous things". Cara had turned the lights on frequently before, but on this ocby fairy lights. It's just not fair. I wish it had been me. She was a bright, wonderful, brilliant little girl who was very well-behaved, just like her brothers and sisters."

Police in Hornsea said that the children's mother, Beverley, 38, was on the phone outside the room when the accident happened at Pioneer Terrace, close to the resort's

Cara and the other children were with their father, Anthony, 40, who works for East Riding of Yorkshire social services at a remand centre. Schoolfriends and relatives paid tribute to Cara, who was pronounced dead at Hull Royal Infirmary where a post mortem will be held.

The headmaster of Hornsea infants school, Derek Nightingale, said: "She was a beautithem, all those happy faces casion ner loot had been on going home for Christmas, not sure, the pipe, earthing the charge | and then something like this | electrician."

and giving her no chance. happens." Cara's parents "It's such a tragedy — poor little Cara, to be electrocuted | In a statement issued on their behalf they appealed to be left alone to try to provide a Christmas for their other children: Fiona, Nicky, 15, Ar-

ron, 12, Maxine, 10, Yvonne,

five, and Marcus, 18 months. The family will be seen in due course by police. Inspec-tor Dennis Cheater said: "The children have got to be interviewed but that's going to be very difficult to do because of their ages and because they are all devastated.

"The house wiring and the lamp that the lights were plugged into are all going to be examined by Yorkshire Electricity and trading standards officers and hopefully that will give us a better idea of what happened.

Police and Yorkshire Electricity issued warnings about precautions with fairy lights. Mr Cheater said: "The obviful little girl, smiling, happy, ous warning is be very care-cheerful and hard-working — ful when you're wiring up a really delightful child. We Christmas lights because had just said goodbye to you're dealing with electricity and it can kill. If you're

#### Extremely cold comfort for the Buddhist who went up a hill and caused a mountain of trouble

David Ward

HERE are few mountains in Milton Keynes. So a local Buddhist, keen to meditate in elevated isolation, packed his thermals, sleeping bag and tent and headed for North Wales. At much the same time,

members of the South met some walkers who, no-Snowdonia Search and ticing what appeared to be Rescue Team were making a serious gash on his face. final arrangements for became concerned for his

The Buddhist had set his sights on the middle path to the summit of Cader Idris

(2,927ft). The rescue team had set theirs on good food and drink.

On the way up his chosen mountain, the Buddhist

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their Christmas bash at safety. They called the Beddgelert, a village in the shadow of Snowdon. safety. They called the police who summoned the rescue team who dropped their forks, lowered their glasses, sighed, and headed 30 miles south.

The Buddhist settled on to his perch to sit through the night as winds gusted at 70mph with a chill factor of -30C. The rescuers summoned a helicopter from RAF Valley on Anglesey, called out the search dogs and pulled on their boots.

The helicopter swept over the mountain, its floodlight piercing the darkness, but found no one. It lifted two four-man teams on to the slopes and soon one team stumbled on their quarry. "What are you doing here?" the Buddhist asked, miffed at this invasion of

his privacy. they had come to rescue looked worse than it was. The Buddhist from the Buddhist ex-plained he was quite happy and he seemed in good search for nirvana.

Milton Keynes when he was | tain. So we left him to it." ready and not before.

"He was concerned that we had come out to look for him," said Barry Ellis, the helicopter and the dogs leader of the searchers. "One of my team members chatted with him and found he was OK and fairly com-The team replied that fortable. The cut on his face

cued. He would return to to sit it out on the moun-

down the mountain, packed and drove back to Beddge-lert, arriving just before midnight to continue the party they had started six hours earlier.

The Buddhist from Mil-ton Keynes continued his

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New in brief

#### Deng 'too ill' to go to Hong Kong handover

IN HIS present state of health, it would be hard for China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping to visit Hong Kong for the colony's return to Chinese rule next July, a senior official said

"For him to go now would be quite difficult," Zhang Baifa, the vice-mayor of Beijing, said in response to reporters' questions at a reception. "When someone is more than 90 years old, it's a big thing even to get a cold."

Chinese officials rarely speak so candidly about Mr Deng, who was 92 in August. The usual official response to questions about him is that he is in good health for a man of his age. Mr Zhang, a close associate of Mr Deng, said Mr Deng was in 'very good" health. He said Mr Deng was in Beijing and dismissed reports that he was slowly being moved towards Hong Kong before the British colony reverts to Chinese sover-

eignty on July 1. Mr Deng's health is an issue of constant speculation because many Chinese fear his death might precipitate a power struggle that could derail economic reforms he set in place.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's colonial governor. Chris Patten, yesterday refused a request by the future leader Tung Chee hwa to support the interim legislature China will install in the territory when the British depart. The two men held their first meeting since Mr Tung was chosen to head the legislature on December 11 by a China-controlled committee. — Agencies, Beiting and Hong Kong. Beijing and Hong Kong.

#### Mass killer stripped of fortune

A COURT in Australia stripped the Port Arthur mass murderer Martin Bryant of a fortune worth more than A\$1 million (£480,000)

yesterday, a month after sentencing him to life in jail. The court ordered Bryant to surrender his assets, inherited four years ago, to the Tasmania state government for liquidation and distribution among survivors of the shooting of 35 people at a tourist spot in the island state last April. — Rester, Bobart.

#### Presidents 'got off too lightly'

SOUTH KOREA'S "trial of the century" headed to the Supreme Court yesterday after prosecutors challenged sentences against former presidents Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae-woo as too lenient. The two men decided they would not seek to overturn verdicts imposed by an appeals court on charges of mutiny,

treason and corruption.

Last week, the appeals court commuted Chun's death sentence to life in jail and reduced Roh's prison term to 17 years from 22-and a half. Their convictions relate to a 1979 coup, an army acre that crushed democratic resistance in 1980 in Kwangju and illegal stush funds they amassed, worth hundreds of million of dollars. — Reuter, Seoul.

#### **Dutch say no to drugs summit**

THE Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, welcomes a call by his Belgian counterpart, Jean-Luc Dehaene, for a drugs "mini-summit", but is not yet ready to commit the Netherlands to such a meeting, a spokesman said yesterday. Mr Dehaene had said he would favour a summit of France, Germany and the Benelux

countries to combat the drug threat. Mr Kok's office said he welcomed Belgium's pragmatic ap-proach to the drugs problem. "Mr Kok is not ruling out a minisummit but he has the view that the ministers for police, justice and public health are more closely concerned with the problem and it might be better if they met first." — Reaser, Amsterdam.

#### Weizman apologises to gays

THE ISRAELI president, fizer Weizman, met gay and lesbian leaders yesterday and apologised for publicly deriding homoses nality as "abnormal".

"The president says that he must express sorrow for any act or comment that causes public humiliation or can be interpreted as such," his spokesman, Arieh Shumer, said after the meeting. "It is necessary to guard the honour, rights and welfare of all the citizens of the state of Israel." — Reuter, Jerusolem.

#### Algiers car bomb kills three

A CAR bomb exploded near a crowded cafe in central Algiers

yesterday killing at least three people and wounding 70, up to 30 seriously, Algerian hospital sources said.

Security forces, wielding assault rifles, sealed off the scene of the explosion, which wrecked a cafe, shattered windows and damaged cars. Residents believed the casualty toll could rise. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, but more than 1,400 civilians have died in bomb attacks by fundamentalist Muslim rebels in the past two years, according to a government human rights body.—Reuter, Paris.



A group of retired Carmelite nuns work out in an old people's home in Torremolinos, Spain. The nuns, once aries, like to keep fit

#### Peace accord in Tajikistan

THE warring aldes in Tajikistan's four-year civil war yesterday signed two peace accords, Interfax news agency said. Signed by President Imomali Rakhmonov, the Islamist opposi tion leader Sayid Abdullo Nuri and a United Nations envoy, they detail powers of a national reconciliation commission, it said.

The Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, present at the signing in Moscow, said the agreements "reflect the aspira-tions of the whole Tajik people who are tired of war and feuds". The two sides undertake to complete negotiations for a permanent peace settlement by July 1. They are expected to declare a general amnesty and to exchange prisoners of war, Interfar said. A Taifit government spokesman, Zafar Saidov, sald the commission would prepare for a constitutional referendum and parliamentary elections. — Reuter, Moscow.

#### Hospital fire kills nine

NINE elderly German women were killed in a fire that destroyed a dormitory in a psychiatric hospital in the small northern town

a dorming, police said yesterday.

The women, aged between 55 and 85, were psychiatric patients.

The women, aged between 55 and 85, were psychiatric patients.



The chilling existential payoff is that no one knows George — he never existed. Yeah, sure — a soft, fluffy Christmas movie . . . It's A Wonderful Life?

G2 page 6

#### Cold welcome at the Kremlin

## Yeltsin makes shaky start

ORIS Yeltsin returned to his Kremlin office for the first time in six months yesterday, declaring himself fully recovered from his recent heart surgery and ready for the po-litical battle ahead. It was a brief and utterly unconvinc-ing performance.

His minders kept the public at arm's length. Heavily wrapped up against the cold, the president spoke to an offi-cial camera crew as he

address last Friday. The return of a sick tear to restore order in the Kremlin was common enough in the

time of Ivan the Terrible, but Mr Yeltsin's warning that he would call to account officials who had profited from his ab-sence was less than terrifying.
"The coming year will be better for Russia. That is the firm word of the president... We will make everyone make a report of what they have done, trrespective of their

merits, be said.
Michael DeBakey, the cial camera crew as he American heart specialist stepped out of his car. His who was present on Novembead was seen to shake, as it ber 5 for the quintuple bypass

had during his television operation, said the president address last Friday. working eight hours a day, but should abstain from alco-hol. General Alexander Lebed, a former presidential rival claimed last week that Mr Yelstin was drinking

heavily again.

John Major, speaking by telephone, was among the first to greet him back at work. The presidential press service said Mr Major would rest the president of the p

visit Russia next year.

Despite this year's spying row and the expulsion of some British diplomats, the two leaders expressed satis-faction with Anglo-Russian relations. Mr Yeltsin said binsk and Ryasan, Alexei

co-operation in economic and nercial spheres".

The president was also courted by the East. The Chinese prime minister Li Peng will visit Moscow this week to pave the way for a presiden-tial summit. The two countries are negotiating the sale of nuclear power stations

and a natural gas pipeline.

Domestically, the welcome home was less warm. Mr Yeitsin was greeted with the news that five governors had been elected on Sunday from oppo-sition ranks representing powerful and heavily popu-lated areas such as Chelya-

region in eastern Siberia. The Kremlin claims that,

numerically, it is winning the fight for the gubernatorial elections, but three of the seven Yeltsin-appointed governors re-elected by the popular appoints and the popular appoints applications are elected by the popular applications are elected by the popular applications applications are applications. ernors re-elected by the popular vote came from small, sparsely populated regions.
Collectively, the governors have considerable political sway. In the absence of strong local Dumas (parliaments), they control the funds, and as members of the upper house of parliament, decide constitutional issues.
The communist leader Gen-

Lebed, the younger brother of his alliance of Communists his alliance of Communists and ranoff in Khakassia and nationalists in the Union of National and Patriotic Forces was close to winning control of the upper house.

Mr Yeltsin's return has triggered fresh rumours about changes in his administration. His daughter Tatiana Djachenko, who has been romantically linked to Anatoly Chubais, the chief of staff, is being tipped for an official job in the Kremlin.

Both Yevgeny Yasin, the economics minister, and Alexander Livshits, the radical democrat finance minister, are being spoken about as potential victims of a reshuffle.



## Grumpy bear awakes to jolt complacent leaders

David Hearst reports from the freezing and lawless forests of about lives off that. | years ago. He said: "In this past two years, but the woods once protected by the Soviet Ostrovski on a surprising election result that will worry Moscow

N ONLY two circumstances will the mild-man-nered bear of the sleepy, forests of northe Russia turn into 660lbs of fur, claw and jaw all concentrated on ripping your throat apart. Bears don't take kindly to being woken up. Hence the expression in Russian poli-

tics: "Don't wake the beast".
Yet this is exactly what Moscow and its deeply incompetent and corrupt official-dom have just done. A very large and aggressive political beast, consisting of 16 different political parties from Communists to nationalists, has just sprung out of the for-ests to gobble up the regional

Valery Arbusov, the sitting governor, had everything on his side. He was appointed by Boris Yeltsin. He had put his placemen in the local parlia-ment. He had an iron grip on the region's budget and its television station. Yesterday he was overwhelmed by his defeat—losing by a crushing

wing beast. A former prose-cutor, he campaigned on a law and order ticket and managed to get the endorsement of both Alexander Lebed, the

nationalist former security chief, and the Communists. In Moscow, this would be ssible to achieve. If this form of compromise between moderate nationalists and Communists, between the centre and the left were forged, the afling President Yeltsin and his elite group of bankers who advise him

would be swept away.

It has not happened yet in

Moscow, but it is happening

an t resell because no one has the money to pay for it. Ninety per cent of the money is not hard to find. Five years ago Nikolai Tugarin, aged 52, was one of 280 pricess. rest have gone bankrupt, his drugs.

the new wing of his hospital squeezed by plummeting state Now he supplies the hospithat was started almost 10

64 per cent vote to his opponent, Viktor Shershunov.

Mr Shershunov is not a left-bank debts. soaring interest rates on their bank debts.

Once productive land of the collective farm is now lying fallow or is overgrown with bushes. Ostrovski has run out of money. Mr Tugarin said: What is the use of bringing the milk from your cows to the milk factory if they try to cians around him. He worked pay you for it in cheese? The in the Yemen and the Russian cheese they offer you is expay you for it in cheese? The

If this compromise were forged, the ailing Yeltsin would be swept away

you cannot eat, you certainly can't resell because no one

Tunis, Instead he prefers a salary of \$120 (£74) a month and five months of Russian

He cares for a sickening population of 17,500 with only ago Nikolai Tugarin, aged oz, sur augarin man a mean sur a sear was one of 280 private farm attack last year but discrete who was given 25 acres of collective farm land for free Now he is one of six. All the not have the money to pay for the sur wins of his hostifal

from wood pulp have closed. That leaves the large prison at the other end of Ostrovski

as the only other regional

The wood yards have closed, the three factories where they process cardboard over the executive. These people are showing the ab-sence of control in the most cynical and bold way. They say, 'We will do as we want' and this goes from the top downwards."

Once a supporter of the lib-eral reformer Grigori Yav-linsky, Mr Kulkov now says he will vote for Gen Lebed. employer.

The head doctor of the Central Regional Clinical Hospital, Valentine Kulkov, is an able, articulate man, easily outshining the local politi-The new governor, Mr Shershunov, is cautious about his new relations with the Kremlin. "We will have a

businesslike partnership," he said. "The [Kremlin's] attempt to divide Russia into 'ours' and 'their's' won't work any more. The problem is not to serve your president, but to serve Russia. The task of the president's administration is to find a compromise and not to impose its view as the only one that can be held."

regional gamekeeper is pre-paring for a licensed hunt of

Back in the forests the

military state - Kostroma was a closed area to foreigners - is now alive with

Mr Vyesyelov, a sober, de-liberate man said: "What do you want? The people are angry. They no longer have the means to live, so they hunt for their food. I have been shot at and had my carbine taken away from me. He and his wife live en-

tirely off the land. "We have to, we can't afford anything else. The state still owes me the money I spent last year on the fuel for the snow machine we use to patrol the forests."
Snow inches thick is now covering the farmer Tugar-in's tractors as he struggles single-handedly to build a roof for the barn. It's a battle against the elements and the

elements will win. "I was at the bank the other day and the bank manager said, Hi, richest man in the region'. I asked him why. Bean elk. Pavel Vyesyelov has an elk. Pavel Vyesyelov has alfo bears and 900 elks in his "patch", an area the size of a small country — 1,000 square miles. Shooting of wild boar miles. Shooting of wild boar has been prohibited for the

## France goes cold turkey on turkey



Alex Duval Smith

TTH so much rich and expensive food available, Parisians do not see why they should give pride of place to a watle-necked bird whose flesh goes dry in the oven. And that also goes for the can-teens feeding the poor and

Henri Sluis, aged 68, who runs one of five Restau du Coeur (restaurants of the heart) in central Paris, is hoping for a last-minute rush of luxury food gifts in time for tonight's main Christmas meal of lamb

and lentils. "Between December and March we feed 400 homeless people here and provide as many meals for people to prepare at home. Every meal contains fish or meat, a vegetable, bread,

said Mr Sluis, a retired illes realise they cannot est businessman shouting any more of it themselves." orders to 30 volunteers in What he has in mind are the kind of luxuries which become staples on Christmas Eve: goose or duck liver, oysters, smoked n, truffles and Bis de Noël aux marrons (chest-

nut Christmas log).

hie foundation created in 1985 by the late comedian Coloche — Mr Shris has seen a decline in the standard of food. "We used to get 30 per cent of our staple food from "So far, concerned indi- European Union surpluses. viduals have brought in But now that the EU food

been a volunteer for Restau

cuidly toys, 24 pincapples mountain is little more and 6,000 avocados. We than a billock, we are hay-

### Bûche de Noël aux marrons

For eight people. 125g dark chocolate 125g unsalted butter, softened with a fork 500g chestnut purée 125g icing sugar aluminium foll

Melt the chocolate over a low heat in a saucepan with 2 thep water. In a bowl, work through the costnut pure until creamy. Fold in the but-ter and melted chocolate. Add

half the icing sugar. Mix until smooth, adding a little rum if

Spoon mixture on to a piece of aluminium foil, folded double. Shape into a losf and roll in foil. Leave in fridge for 24 hours or freezer for 2hrs. When firm, remove foll and score top with fork to imitate bark of a log. Dust with icing sugar. Decorate with artifi-cial holly or marzipan fig-

cheese or yoghurt, and a tend to get the real luxury ing to spend much more of dessert. If we can add a little extra treat, we will," and New Year when fam-"But it is Christmas for the poor as well, and they erve a little extra some In the three years he has thing to cheer them up." This view has inspired 30

Paris restaurateurs to offer free meals to poor people accompanied by a patron paying the full price. They have asked Mr Sluis's organisation to vet those claiming the free food, Mr Sluis said: "When Coluche Iaunched Restaurants du Coeur he opened them to anyone who was hungry. Unfortunately, people who were not hungry came too. So now we limit meals and food parcels to people with less than 2,600 francs (£305) left over a month, after rent."

For most French people Christmas is as much of a binge as it is for Britons only a more varied one. Turkey sales are down by 10 per cent this year.

Main-course favourites tonight will be beef, chicken or salmon. For the first time, the Buche de Noël faces serious competition from exotic fruit salads.

#### Police raid satanic sect in Belgian paedophile case

Stephen Bates in Bruscols

THE Belgian police's lengthy search for evidence in the country's paedophile scandal took a shocking hirnyesterday with confirma-tion that they had removed human skulls from the premises of satanic sects.

More than 150 officers took part in the midnight raid on the headquarters of several obscure cults at Forchies-la-Marche, near the southern city of Charleroi where the paedophile investigation has centred for the past four months. The property houses organisations called the Belgian Church of Satan and the Luciferian Initiation Order. The raid followed a week of intensified public activity by the police who have been accused of incompetence in their handling of the investi-

gation of the disappearance of a number of children. Belgium was devastated in August when the police arrested Marc Dutroux, a

builder and convicted paedo-phile, in Charleroi and subse-quently discovered the bodies of four children buried in the gardens of properties Du-

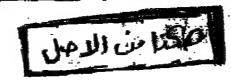
troux owned in the area. Two of the bodies were of eightyear-old girls, missing from their homes for more than a year, who starved to death while held in a cell in the basement of one of Dutroux's hames.

The parliamentary inquiry into the child abductions has exposed staggering interforce rivalries which meant that leads pointing to Dutroux were either never passed on or not followed up. As part of their search for evidence to convict Dutroux and his associates, police have spent the past week digging through disused and flooded mine shafts near the

Charleroi suburb of Jumet, so far without finding any evidence that they ever incarcerated anyone there. The area, which is riddled with long-abandoned workings dating back up to 300 years, was first searched two months ago after Dutroux told the police that they might

"find something interesting" there. It was resumed last week

after Dutroux's wife, Michele Martin — who is also in cus-tody — told the authorities they might find bodies.



ures. Serve with cream.

Cracks appear in Pakistan corruption commission

## Charges against Bhutto fail to stick

taker government has all but admitted failure in its attempt to punish members of the country's elite who have been accused of siphoning off huge sums during the government of the sacked prime minister, Benazir Bhutto.

The president, Faroog Legh-ari, dismissed Ms Bhutto last month, accusing her of eco-nomic mismanagement and human rights abuses. However, corruption was widely seen as the greatest sin of her three-year government. Mr Leghari appointed a cor-ruption commission and

vowed that those convicted by an independent tribunal would be barred from the elections that have been

called for February 3.

But there have been only a handful of arrests since then Investigators say it is difficult to find evidence of corruption. Bureaucrats — who may be implicated — are rejuctant to speak in case Ms Bhutto is returned to provide the case of the ca returned to power, and some

The remaining loyalists within Ms Bhutto's divided Pakistan People's Party (PPP) accuse the caretaker administration of using corruption to try to rig the elections, "This is just one-sided. Nearly 50 days have passed and they haven't brought any charges against us. It's political victimisation," said Naheed Khan, Ms Bhutto's private secretary, who was bailed on charges of misnes of public charges of misuse of public funds after spending more than a month in jail.

Those claims have found an

echo even within the care-taker government. Last week, the law minister, Fakhruddin Ibrahim, resigned, alleging "unjustified interference" and accusing the caretaker government of fatally diluting provisions that would have barred candidates who had defaulted on bank loans.

The leader of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML), Nawaz Sharif, is be-lieved to head the list of loan defaulters. "All the amendments have been made be-cause one party objected to it and that was the Pakistan Muslim League. I said an inreturned to power, and some terim government had to be officials complain they have totally neutral and non-parti-

However, Shafqat Mahmood, who broke with Ms Bhutto to join the caretaker cabinet, said the whole notion of a comprehensive clean-up in such a short time span was misconceived. "I think the expectations were unfairly raised and we couldn't live up to them. The legal procedures are such that to expect any-thing dramatic to happen in 90 days is too much. I don't see any top-ranking politi-cians being eliminated before the elections."

Mr Zardari, who has an-

nounced he will not contest the elections, was charged last week with the murder of Ms Bhutto's brother, Murtaza — who was shot dead by police in Karachi last September - more than a month after his arrest. Officials insist he will face corruption charges within days.

new regime's resolve — and of the possibilities for positive change in Pakistani pub-lic life — will come on Thurscommission begins the task of crutinising nomination papers to ensure prospective



Singobile Mabhena receives the staff of authority from Zimbabwe's minister of local government, John Nkomo, as she succeeds her father as chief of the Nswazi people (above); and young Ndebele warriors (below) dance in celebration

PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDREW MELDRUM

The chief who wears a miniskirt

### Speed of success leaves Taliban in confusion

Suzanne Goldenberg reports on the doubts enveloping the new rulers in Kabul, where terror is the only certainty

OHAMMED Rescol has been consumed by war. His left shin has been replaced by a plastic to a movement which has been replaced by a plastic shield and his withered right arm hangs useless by his side. But he is still a soldier and has a new master to serve.

Now the guardian of a Soviet-built housing complex in Kabul, he wears the longtailed turben of the Taliban Islamic movement — only the latest of the many guerrilla groups for whom he has fought in the past 12 years. But he hasn't adjusted to their strict moral code, defy-ing a ban on drug use to smoke up to 10 marij arettes a day - to dull the

'An accountant wouldn't be able to keep track of the people I have killed," he moaned. "There is no future and I can't imagine peace. Our houses have collapsed and our families have scattered. What do we have to look forward to?"

pain of living.

Representatives of international organisations in Kabul believe the absorption of sool is crucial to understand-ing the Taliban who, three months after the capture of the Afghan capital, remain a mystery to the outside world. As the Taliban rolled through Afghanistan, commanders found it expedient to join them. Aid workers argue that the Taliban are now no longer sure who is in their ranks, and that their harsh-

ness towards the citizens of Kabul betrays that fear. In Dari-speaking Kabul, the mainly Pashtun Taliban are the outsiders, deeply suspi-cious of ethnic Tajiks and Panjshiris, people from the stronghold of one commander whose offensive has stalled on the frontline 12 miles north of the city. That suspicion has translated into arbitrary ar-

been infiltrated, and perhaps tainted, by the fighters of con-

quered motahedin groups.
"These Talibs who walk the city are a bit different from the people in the ministries. These people in the ministries are not in control," said an international aid organisa-

tion employee in Kabul. The leader of the Taliban is Mullah Mohammed Omar Akhund, a one-eyed cleric who heads the organisation's su-preme council, or shura, and

They are not asking for the outside world to approve of them

to be vested in the extremely conservative town of Kanda-har in southern Afghanistan, where he founded the movement in 1994.

Almost nothing is known about how policy is decided within the Taliban, or how commands are transmitted.
"If there is a decision-making structure, it has not yet been made accessible to outsiders." said Paula Newberg, a senior fellow at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University and a consultant to the United

Nations on Afghanistan. The ideology of the Taliban - beyond a commitment to is also unclear. However,
 Sher Mohammed Stanikzai, the deputy foreign minister who has become the Taliban's main point of contact with the outside world, dismisses sugoutside world, dismisses sug-gestions of divisions. "There is no such group as funda- Mohammed Rasool.

nentalists or moderates. We are all the same from top to

Ms Newberg believes the confusion about the Taliban's ntent spawns from the speed of their victory.

Although most Aighans see the discipline of the Taliban as a deliverance from the law-lessness of the earlier com-manders, it is unclear how long they will tolerate the Ta-liban's strict interpretation of Islam. Four million Afghans have returned to their

country since 1992 and most are loath to face exile again. The Taliban are also ambiv-alent about international opinion. They want the outside world to deal with them mainly because they need help in reconstruction, but they are not asking for the outside world to approve of them and they are not selving. them and they are not asking for the people of Afghanistan to approve of them." Ms New-

Such confusion is evident in the Taliban's dealings with international aid organisa-tions in Kabul. The UN still clings to the hope that the Ta-liban will be tempered by the task of administering the city.

Last week, UN representa-tives said the Taliban had promised to lift the ban on education for girls when schools re-open in March.
"It's happening, the windows have been opening in the last week or two," said Terry Pixner, of the UN High Com-

missioner for Refugees.

However, Mr Stanikzai maintained that the Taliban would not yield to pressure on women's rights. "We are living in this society. They are our nation, they are our people," he said. "I am not required to give a gnarantee to the world."

to the world."

He said decisions on the rights of women and girls would have to be deferred until fighting had ceased. In the meantime, the people of Kabul are vulnerable to the young gunmen on its streets When there is no law, you

Andrew Meldrum reports from

Matandele in southern Zimbabwe

tribal leader

where after much debate the Nswazi people have broken traditional culture and appointed a student teacher as their first female

of female subservience as she bows her head and modestly lowers her eyes. But this demure 23-year-old has rocked Zimbabwe's traditional culture by becoming one of the first women to take on the powerful mantle of tribal chief.

"I know many people are opposed to me becoming chief because I am a woman," said Ms Mabhena. will prove to them that I can work as much as a

Ms Mabhena was installed at the weekend as chief of the estimated 100,000 people of the He explained that Ms Nswazi communal area to Mabhena's investiture has southern Zimbabwe. The colourful ceremony fea- a year because of objec-

the spirits of their ances-tors, several choirs, drumming and, of course, a feast of beef, chicken, vegetables and rice.

"I bring your community a Christmas present, your new chief Singobile Mab-hena," said Zimbabwe's minister for local governlations and cheers.

"Chief Howard Mabhena died in 1993 and he had no son to succeed him. It man. Being a woman therefore fell upon his eldessn't mean you are disabled."

therefore fell upon his eldest daughter, Singobile, to succeed him and she has taken up her chieftainship responsibilities with hu-mility." he said.

been delayed by more than

Surrounded by tured dashing Ndebele wargovernment ministers and tribal
chiefs, Singobile
dances, wizened old women

tions. "The government | Mabbena with the traditions in leopard skin lothbeld lengthy discussions |
tional chiefs costume, an incongruous but arresting |
mix of African and colonial chief who would not have been appointed by them.

> 'We have female cabinet ministers and airplane pilots. Why not chiefs?

All's well that ends well."

A chief's main responsi-bilities are to preside over

hearings to settle family disputes and matters of property. "I want to look at all sides in any dispute and to be fair," said Ms Mab-

vmbols of authority: s crimson and purple chief's robe, a white pith helmet, a

Five other chiefs witnessed the event, as well as the governor of Matabele-land South province and the local MP. As scores of well-wishers

crowded round to congratu-late Ms Mabhena, the young chief wiped a few tears from her eyes. "I just thought about this whole thing, the history, my father, the future, the res-ponsibility, everything," she said.

Singobile Mabhena is a combination of the old Africa and the new. During to be fair," said was many hena. "I don't want to only take the woman's side or to take the woman's side." wayo, where she is studying to be a primary school-Mr Nkomo invested Ms teacher. She wears short

**Aborigines win right** 

boyfriend, who is a school-teacher. At weekends she rural home where she meets in council with the Mabhena clan's elders. Her investiture, however,

does not bring an end to the controversy. The ceremony was boycotted by several chiefs and political figures and the attendance of 800 was smaller than the 2,000 that had been anticipated.

"I remain opposed to this because it is against our culture," said Welshman Mabhena, governor of the neighbouring Matabeleland North province, who did not attend the investigation. did not attend the investi-ture. "An Ndebele chief must always be a male." George Moyo, chairman of the Vukani Mahlabezulu

Cultural Society, also op-poses the investiture of Ms Mabhena. "Our ancestors chief. It is going to destroy our culture. In our culture women were only advisers at home, that's all," he said. "There are many chiefs who are not going to accept this. The Nswazi people are going to have

trouble because of this."
Ms Mabhena's grandmother, Gogo Flora Masuku, is outspokenly in favour. "I am very, very happy to see a female chief. Women must stand up for their rights and advance their position. Women fought to end Rhodesia. We now have female cabinet lots. Why not chiefs?

"Is the queen of Britain a man? Is Margaret Thatcher a man? Women can be

## Victory, before the vote

Ramthan Hussain In Singapore

HE People's Action Party (PAP), which has ruled Singapore since 1959, swept back to power yes-terday before a single vote

"We are already in govern-ment," the prime minister, Goh Chok Tong, said shortly after nominations closed. He was returned unopposed. The government said the PAP had won 47 uncontested seats in the 83-member perliament.

The election commission announced later that voting would take place on January 2. giving the minimum nineday campaign allowed after the close of nominations.

The opposition parties, which held only four seats in the previous parliament, said they would adopt a by-election strategy for the general elections, fielding candidates only for seats which they might stand a chance of

winning.
The PAP has launched a tough campaign to keep the opposition out of parliament. opposition out of partiament. then you'll be left behind, sition, as in 1991. — Reuter.



No contest: Goh Chok Tong cruises to another term as Singapore's prime minister

stark message - vote for the opposition and forget any hopes of benefiting from lav-ish government renovation and development schemes. Mr Goh told people on Sunday that he would respect their choice if they voted for

then in 20, 30 years' time, the whole of Singapore will be bustling sway and your estate, through your own choice, will be left behind. They become slums. That's my message."

Shrugging off international criticism of the PAP's patriarchal style of government, Mr Gob said to students last week: "Do you think we could have done even half of what was achieved in the last 30 years if we had a multiparty system and a revolving door government?

"Do you think we could have done just as well if we had a government which was constantly being held in check by 10 to 20 opposition members in the last 30 Analysts said the most

keenly watched aspect of the elections would be the percentage of the vote won by the PAP, and whether its decision to field new candidates in a third of the seats would reverse the decline in its mandate from 75.6 per cent in 1980 to 59.3 per cent in 1991. Analysis say the PAP's pre-alection victory might en-courage the vote for the oppo-

### Burundi rebels call ceasefire

Chris McGreal

UTU rebels in Burundi have called a Christmas ceasefire in the civil war as the Tutsi-led military gov-ernment denied accusations that its army is responsible for further massacres of civilians. The largest rebel group, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy, announced an 11-day ceasefire from midnight on Monday. But its leader, former interior minister Leonard Nyangoma,

back against any fresh army "We warn the bloodthirsty army against profiting from this ceasefire to attack our positions or redeploy its forces on the ground. In that case, we will hit back with the

warned that he would hit

greatest energy," he said. The military government led by Major Pierre Buyoya, who seized power in a coup in nesty International report that the army has murdered at least 1,000 unarmed Hutu civilians in the past month.
"What is happening ap-

pears to be a deliberate policy of systematic extermination of a section of the population. with Buyoya presiding over more than 10,000 killings since August," Amnesty said. Amnesty allege that up to 500 Hutus were killed in a single massacre three weeks ago in a church in Nyarurama, 40 miles southeast of the

told the victims they would be safe in the church but once the Hutus were inside troops surrounded the building, threw in grenades and shot or bayoneted those who tried to

Reports of another massa cre emerged on Sunday. Residents of Buchaganzwa in eastern Burundi accused the army of murdering 250 civilians with guns and bayonets during fighting against rebels last month.

In neighbouring Rwanda, the United Nations said yes-terday that the government has arrested at least 500 Hutu refugees for genocide among more than 300,000 who returned from Tanzania this month. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said the Hutus had been detained in Murambi commune in northeastern Rwanda, alleg-edly for joining the 1994 slaughter of Tutsis.

The Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy to Rwanda, a Hutu exile organisation which is widely seen as a front for those who organised the genocide, alleges that refugees are being ar-rested on the basis of false accusations by people who do not want to surrender property to the returning Hutus. But a UNHCR spokesman said he believes those Hutus

recently detained were held for their own protection. 'It seems they [the Rwandan au-thorities] don't have a lot of options other than protective detention to avoid vigilante violence," he said.

sun inferience in dustry.

"I suspect that pretty well violence," he said.

sun inferience in dustry.

"I suspect that pretty well rights covenant by jailing every pastoral lease in Australia May nave a lot of the United Nations' child 330,000 Aborigines who are regarded as the most underprivileged social group.—AP. capital. Amnesty said soldiers | violence," he said.

## to claim farming land

Alan Thornbill in Canberra

BORIGINES won an important legal victory yesterday, paving the way for "traditional ownership" claims on a possible 40 per cent of the continent. The Australian High Court upheld an appeal by the Wik communities against an ear-lier court decision that denied them the right to lodge a na-tive title claim to land leased by state governments to cattle and sheep farmers.

These "pastoral" leases cover about 40 per cent of Australia. Farmers and some state governments argued that leased land should be exempt from tribal claims. The Wik and Thayorre people's claim to more than

14,000 square miles on the Cape York peninsula in the tropical northeastern state of Queensland had originally been denied by the federal

Much of the disputed land is leased to farmers, but also includes a large bauxite mine. The Aboriginal communities are now free to take their land claim back to the federal

The ruling, which will allow Aborigines to pursue further claims on a case-by-case basis, has led to an out-Cry from some politicans and farmers who believe the decision threatens the future of

Farmers' Federation, Donald McGauchie.

The chief minister of the

Northern Territory, Shane Stone, said 96 per cent of the 520,000 square miles of terri-tory were also vulnerable to claims. The ruling had left "a con-

#### No Christmas for jailed boys

WO Aboriginal boys, jailed for spitting at the politican behind Australia's race row, were granted bail yesterday at a special children's court hearing in Brisbane, but were told they could not go home for

The brothers, aged 11 and 12, were granted bail on the condition that they remained in a rural training centre for wayward Aboriginal children.

They had allegedly entered the electoral office of Pauline Hanson in Ipswich with two other boys last Wednesday on the pretence of seeking her auto-graph, but had allegedly spat at her and slapped her in the face.
Amnesty International

warned yesterday that Anstralia may have breached the United Nations' child 330,000 Aborigines who are

within a few weeks," said the president of the National tions determined on almost origines rejected such claims

as scaremongering.

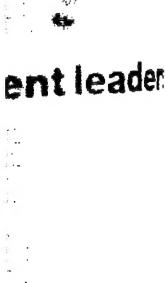
James Fitzgerald, a lawyer
who represented the Aboriginal communities, said yester-day: "The High Court has made it clear that wherever the rights of pastoralists are in conflict with the exercise of native title rights that the rights of pastoralists will prevail. As a result, there is no loser from today's decision."
In 1992, the high court, overturned the historical idea

of Terra Nullius — that Australia was uninhabited when white European settlers arrived in 1788 - thus recognising that Aborigines had traditional land rights. In 1993, the Australian gov-

ernment passed native title laws, allowing Aborigines to lodge claims to land, if they could prove uninterrupted traditional usage. Since the 1992 ruling,

scores of tribal land claims have been filed. But many had been delayed by the question of whether or not govern-ment land leased to farmers could be legally claimed.

Before yesterday's ruling, farmers said they would lobby the government of conservative prime minister. John Howard, to change the law if they lost the case.



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### Give peace another try

But nothing much will happen until the election

the latest events in Northern Ireland. One is to shrug the shoulders and assume that the weekend's reciprocal attacks of republican on loyalist, and share of responsibility too. then of loyalist on republican, herald a long-feared downward spiral about which little can be done. The other way is to take the shootings and bombings as a combined warning and to do something to prevent that downward decline from getting worse.

The former response is in line with the cynical and fatalistic mood of the times and typifies the tentative spirit in which the British have played their part in wasting the opportunities of the last three years. The latter, by contrast, is the only one which offers hope to Northern Ireland. It remains the policy to which politicians of all parties ought to be committed.

The two weekend incidents show that the paramilitaries on both sides of the sectarian divide are well-prepared for a The IRA's gun attack in a children's hospital is shocking both for its ruthless pursuit of a political target at a time when Sinn Fein still hopes for inclusion in the talks process, as well as for a disregard of the danger to young, innocent lives. It showed the lengths to

which the IRA are again prepared to go. But so too did the loyalist booby trap car bomb against a top IRA man on Sunday. In the past, loyalist terrorism has tended to rely on indiscriminate assaults on soft targets. This, by con-trast, was a well-planned murder attempt against a top target carried out within hours of the IRA attack. If nothing else, these incidents show just how dangerous it would be if an all-out exchange of assaults was now to begin.

For the moment, though, that has not happened. Serious though the situation has become, it has not yet degenerated into a free-for-all. It is in the public keep their minds on peace-making.

THERE are two ways of responding to interest that it does not, and there is still time to prevent it from doing so. For that to happen, however, British politicians need to recognise their own

> Unfortunately there will be little or no political progress in Northern Ire-land until after the British general election. This is humiliating for Northern Ireland but it is a recognition of realities. John Major is too weak to do anything that would offend the Ulster Unionists; but, as their weekend flirtation with Sir James Goldsmith shows, he is also too weak to stop them doing much that will offend him. However, Tony Blair does not have any motive to initiate either. There are no Tory marginals in Northern Ireland, and Mr Blair fears doing anything which will allow the Tories to cast him as the terrorists' friend.

Northern Ireland therefore faces six months of drift. British politicians must do their bit to steady this situation. more general collapse into violence. Both parties can make a contribution and should do so. The Tories must recognise that their praiseworthy efforts in Northern Ireland have not worked. But they must not now do anything that will make the job of the next government — which could after all be a Tory one — any harder. Ministers need to look before they leap, as Patrick Mayhew did yesterday. Mr. Major, recently dumping on the latest Hume-Adams proposals, did the reverse. That sort of short-termism must stop.

But Labour must not hide behind the Conservatives' coat-tails either. Labour needs to know what it intends in Northern Ireland and to signal its intentions authoritatively. No change is no option. Labour needs to move the spiral in the opposite direction even before it has the chance of taking office. At a grim time in Northern Ireland politicians must



Howard has dropped a brick before any have been laid

niie fustice system was indicted by the ure. Less than a month ago, it called for a total restructuring of the system. Ironically, ministers have been saved from even further embarrassment by the vetoes which local communities have applied to the Government's plans for five privately-run secure training centres for persistent offenders aged 12 to 14. Four years on from the stirring words of successive home secretaries on the need to lock up young hooligans, not a single brick has been laid. The current home secretary is left looking extremely foolish after his promise to the 1993 Tory Party conference to set up the new centres and remove "young thugs from the streets". But the system can survive one further demeaning bout of overblown rhetoric from the Michael Howard much more easily than the consequences of a serious policy failure which the five private prisons would undoubtedly have generated.

The arguments against the £100 million centres were lucidly set out by a group of expert peers during the pas-sage of the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill. Forget what the Opposition said. In a succession of arguments in the Lords, a former Conservative home secretary (Lord Carr), a former home office permanent secretary (Lord Allen), and a former social whip (Lady Faithfull) all warned minis-

EVEN before the latest fiasco, the juve- | ters about the "schools for criminals" which they were set on creating. They Audit Commission as a £1 billion fail- did not dispute the need for some secure places but pointed to the spare capacity in the current system. A subse quent report from the National Children's Bureau in 1995 showed that nearly one third of the children locked up in the 300 local authority-run secure places could be safely let out in the opinion of the managers. The authors were rightly disturbed by the way in which children convicted of serious offences (murder, rape and arson) were living alongside children with urgent personal problems: suicide, drug abuse and persistent absconding. Ministers were plunging ahead with the centres when much more effective and cheaper preventive programmes were still not in place in many areas: intensive supervision. juvenile bail support programmes, and special schemes for inveniles who had been cautioned. At least 1.000 such schemes could have been financed from the £30 million running costs of the five proposed centres. Far from being a Nimby veto, the community was applying a Niaby vote: Not in anyone's back yard.

Community opposition is not con-fined to juvenile prisons but is being applied to adult prisons too. With the prison population rising by almost 1,000 a month - the equivalent of two new prisons - the system is in crisis. Mr Howard has been forced to resort to services director who took the Tory prison ships and a former holiday camp a fitting end to his reign.

#### **How Santa rewards the City**

The problem is how to find a good home for those bonuses

valuable voluntary work when it opened a national network of day centres yesterday to provide food, clothing and medical checks for up to 4.000 homeless people during the festive period. But Crisis is not the only Crisis at Christmas we should be concerned about. The other is not one of want but of excess, and it is occurring with such embarrassing regularity that something must be done about it. According to a Sunday Telegraph survey, 1,500 bankers and brokers in the City will share bonuses this Christmas of over £500,000 each — a total of £750 million. You don't need a maths degree to work out that a sum of that size could solve the homeless problem.

There has been no sign in recent experience that any of that sort of money trickles down to the poor, whose lot has worsened, not improved, during the past 17 years. Nor is there any

CRISIS, the charity, extended its in- evidence that the skills involved in producing such bonanzas for the City (buying and selling bonds and shares often for our own pension funds - or investment banking) bear any relation to the huge salaries earned, let alone the grotesque bonuses that a twisted Father Christmas will put in their stockings this year. At the very least, there is something wrong with the workings of the market in the City because there are thousands of amplyskilled people who would do these jobs for hugely less than the present incumbents - without any effect on quality. Unless the City can cure this quasimonopolistic problem itself, a special tax or "charge" (so-called so it needn't count against the sacrasanct fiscal promises of the Labour and Tory manifestos) should be imposed: with the proceeds earmarked to help the homeless. How many gold diggers in the City would have the nerve to object?



#### Letters to the Editor

## Postman leaves his stamp A good woman in Hong Kong and a bad man in Peru

parents and teachers no new pointers to help them offer their children a viable alternative to the consumer society (School's out forever, December 21).
Today's young, faced with a
daily onslaught of media advertising and peer pressure
avidly calling on them to own and experience without limit, are unlikely to be impressed by quotations from Donne and Nietzsche entreating them to consider life's meaning and the wider social con-sequences of their actions.

In fact, most of our youngsters appear to be happy with the materialist fruits of the global economy as they freglobal economy as they fre-quent our streets and shop-ping malls, listening to their Sony Walkmans whilst eating a Big Mac, imbibing a Coca Cola and coveting a parked EMW. Thankfully, as they have not been indoctrinated into believing that what is taught to them from the ros. taught to them from the rostrum or pulpit is sacrosanct, they harbour no illusions of

Prof Postman should real-

MARTIN Short's article on Freemasonry (Unsafe

secret society, December 29) failed to mention the Orange

Order. They also claim to be a

moral, temperate organisation

yet, each summer, they egg on drunken mobs in Northern

Ireland. Their "leaders" then sit in Parliament while the

Prime Minister condemns the

suffering caused by the

ARTIN Short .should

Mmake clear why he would

treat Freemasons differently from the Knights of St Co-

humba or members of Opus

Dei Do they not also "claim to

WAS dismayed to see that you had nominated Neil Jor-

in for the Guardian Person

ality of the Year, for his "ser-

vices to republicanism" (December 21). Poking fun at

Fergie is one thing, but trying to get a cheap laugh out of the Troubles in Northern Ireland is tasteless in the extreme.

61 Albany Park, St Andrews, Pife KY16 8BP.

Alan Goodman. 14 Norwood Crescent.

Southport PR9 7DU.

actions of the society.

Dorking, Surrey RH5.

be moral societies"? RJM Tolhurst.

Flat 52, The Vineyards, Great Baddow.

Chelmsford CM2 7QS.

Jim Killeen

P Casey. London Road,

EIL Postman gives | ise that not everyone needs a | strike the right balance purpose beyond the concrete reality of the acquisitive soc-iety. The vast resjority of the next generation of adults will, like the current one, look back on their education as a means of increasing their spending power, the only sure sign of secular success in today's economy. WR Jackson. 5 St John Street

Mansfield NG18 1QH AGREE with Neil Postman that we need a reason for schooling and that there is too much emphasis on teaching the young "how to make a living" and not on "how to make a life".

But there is hope. As a school governor in West Sus-sex, I am impressed by the determination of my teaching and other colleagues to educate each student to schieve personal fulfilment — eco-nomic, social and cultural at school and beyond, through life-long learning. This approach it mot easy. It needs 43 Graham Road, de off "engineering" (Prof. Wealdstone, Postman's word). How do you Middlesex HA3 5RP.

tween our different aims and how do you weave them into the curriculum? We try very hard indeed. George Elliott. Warnham Horsham, West Sussex RH12 3SN.

As ONE of the 30 per cent of this country's growing population of afheists and agnostics, reading Neil Postman was an inspiration. One small worry though — his "fallen angels". It harks back to the disturbed notion of original sin, which we could do sin, which we could do

Also, despite his own em-phasis on the importance of imperfection, it still implies the possibility of human beings perfecting themselves and the cosmos. The mythical Eden do not reflect what we now know about ourselves and the cosmos today. Clarence M G Wilson. 48 Graham Road.

### PERHAPS IF IM VERY SERIOUSLY IN THE PAPER 10 % 80 CO X

### If papers drop the punchline

As the son of a boxing promoter, brought up on the fight game, I'd like to propose Lan't it time this activity a campaign to ban boxing from your sports pages.
In what other sport does the world champion (or rather, the world champion's man-

ager, promoter and pay-per-view TV sponsor) select a challenger? What other sport has four "world" champions, at goodness knows how many

weights, so that nobody goes 11 Hermiston Avitile-less? What other sport London N8 SNL. Tomorrow is another day the cinema (Terminated, De-cember 21) paints a dismal picture of its future, but probably because he identifies "cinema" with "box office". They are not the same. The

IF THE Duchess of York has plethore of disaster movies is contributed to the spread of reguldicanism in Britain, I thank her. She may be wrong-headed, but she is also the vicnot the outcome of film-makers' concern for the future but are the buzzword. Queen approved her as a spouse for her son: did mar-riage to Andrew wholly chance Sarah's character?

ANDREW Moncur is wrong to mock American Christ mas cards for omitting the word "Christmas" (December 15). This may be due to the large number of immigrants in America but if one wants to send greetings to non-Chris-tians, "Season's Greetings" etc are a far better option. Sigrid Rabiger. 13 Montpelier Rise, London NW11 988.

IN THESE days of the inter national umpires' panel surely it is wrong that one of the umpires in the first Test between England and Zin twe should be the administra tor of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (I will defend our tac-tics to the hilf', December 23)? Phil Abel.

London Es 21.1

Tony Bodinetz. 11 Hermiston Avenue, ONATHAN Romney's series has put the UK shead of the world in animation. We have thousands of film-makers trying out their own ideas - it is now possible to make a feature film in your

minded ethics.

was denied the legitimacy of

serious sports coverage and consigned to the same life as

post-Kent Walton wrestling: Deristve laughter and public

ity-deprivation could prove more effective than po-faced

scientific evidence and high

back room or over the inter-net. They are not seen be-cause there is a lack of view

ing channels, but that problem will be resolved with tigital TV. simply because special effects The box-office cinema has The "innocent eye" has not run the gamut of emotions. It now has to resort to good ideas. These are not the pre-serve of Hollywood so looking been lost, it has moved downmarket. Film is now part of "visual literacy" in the national curriculum; film fes-tivals for children's producthere for inspiration will not reveal much tions are sponsored by var- Stan Hayward ious organisations; and 25 Walm Lane, Stan Hayward.

#### Europe's missing children

Channel 4's Formations London NW25SH.

insemination in another European Union state and equently disowned by their father (Legal row over disowned twins, December 20) highlights the absence of any mention of children or family policy in the European trealies, thus preventing the development of a common approach on these issues.

Referral to the European Court of Justice, as is likely in this case, will be on the grounds of conflict with the right of free movement of EU citizens. This is surely a poor substitute for the development of effective policies | are more likely to appear

HE case of the twins born grounded in the welfare of to a couple through donor children and families. children and families. This is an issue that is no

going to go away. Failure to remedy the absence of any provision for addressing the Suropean dimension of family policy will inevitably lead to an increase in referrals to European courts inside and outside the EU. (Dr) Bronwen Cohen.

Children in Scotland 5 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4RG.

We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them: shorter ones

has joined it are unwarranted (Woman with a mission for Beijing, December 23). When I taught at a univers-

ity in Hong Kong during the 1960s, she provided ordinary people in Kowloon with badly needed help in their dealings with the authorities, in her capacity as an elected urban councilior. She acted unpre-tentiously, not "like a god-dess", as one critic states in your report. She did so with difficulty, since the colonial government had given such minimal powers to elected

Indeed, democratisation came to Hong Kong far later and more grudgingly than in most parts of the British Em-- something that we

pire — something that we should remember when we rightly complain of China's distaste for democracy.

Elsie Tu's efforts on behalf of poor people occurred against the grain of the colonial establishment. It was a time when ordinary folk systematically avoided contact tematically avoided contact with a vastly-corrupt police my students were randomly rounded up at bus-stands by police and beaten in the cells. The aim was to extract bribes from relatives and friends whom they were allowed to telephone. Some rang me and I extracted them, without pay-ment, from custody. When I raised this with a senior British police officer and a Brit-ish judge, they denied such

things were possible.

No one should harbour any illusions about China's beneficence. But criticisms of Elsie To are of a piece with self-righteous views of British rule in Hong Kong. Britain should go quietly

YOU are right to be sceptical of the "legislature" people in need.
James Manor.
Director, Institute of Commonwealth Studies,
The institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, 28 Russell Square, London WC1B 50S.

> THERE has been substan-tial coverage of the seige at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Peru but few facts have emerged about the Fujimori regime (Tokyo backs hard line on Peru rebels, December 23).

Peru is among the most ex-ploited countries in Latin America. Six out of 10 people are unemployed or under em-ployed. Wages are at an alltime low; hunger, poverty and Since coming to power in 1990, Alberto Fujimori has instituted a series of savage austrity measures to meet the de-mands of the IMF for repayment of the national debt. Subsidies were cut and prices raised; staples such as rice, sugar and petrol have risen sevenfold. Public workers have taken enormous cuts in pay and over 500,000 have lost their jobs. The corrupt Fujimori regime gets rich on cocaine, producing 60 per

cent of the world's coca. Huge protests and strikes have gripped the country, often met with brutal suppression by the Peruvian military under the guise of counter-insurgency. In a corrupt, undemocratic society, where elections are rigged, is it any wonder that progressive forces such as the MRTA meet force with force? Rather than dispatching the SAS, the British government would do better to pressure the Peruvian regime into meeting the MRTA's demands. Mark Power.

2 Springfield Place, Foleshili, and let this fine woman con- | Coventry CVI 4GT.

#### How the UN elects world leaders

WILBERT MUKORI (Letters, December 20) raises the important issue of the urbe blamed if the results were gent need to ensure that in future, senior UN posts are filled through a proper selec-tion process — rather than through the disgraceful be-haviour of the US Government this year and the pushing and shoving of the other members of the UN Security Council.

Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali worked tirelessly to persuade the Security Council to live up to its responsibilities in relation to Rwanda, Angola, Western Sahara, Somalia and other crisis areas in Africa and gave much support to the

be blamed if the results were less comprehensive than they should have been.

In these crises, he was very ably supported by Kofi An-nan, as head of the UN Peacekeeping Department. Although the method of selection may have left much to be desired, Kofi Annan was an excellent candidate and will serve the peoples of the world most ably as UN Secre-Malcolm Harper

Director, United Nations Association. 3 Whitehall Court, London SWIA 25L

#### **A Country Diary**

landowner of what is now the National Trust country park planted an assortment of exotic trees throughout the woodlands, the most impres-sive of which, for me, has to be the Giant Sequoia or Wellingionia. It grows at the edge of the western woods and, at this time of year, when all the broad-leaved trees have lost their foliage, its rufous-red bark shines like a beacon across the pasture that separates the western and southern woods. I always stop to admire it and take the time to search for cones and fallen twigs. The conclets start out green in colour, taking two years to grow into mature brown cones, which may not fall immediately and can remain on the tree for up to 20 years. On a recent visit, I picked up examples of both, together with some fallen twigs covered in scale-like leaves, which, when crushed in the hand, gave off a strong

CHESHIRE: The Victorian | aroma of aniseed. At the top of several thin branches, male catkins were beginning to form and these would event-ually turn yellow and shed polien next spring. Its trunk was perfectly straight, lead-ing up to a full-pointed crown of branches that swept down and then up at their ends, all supported on a swollen. slightly buttressed base. The deeply-fissured bark was thick and soft to the touch, and, containing no resin, it would be quite fire resistant. I could only guess at the age of the tree but it must have been around 100. The species was not known to western naturalists until 1852, following the gold rush in its native California, and first appeared in England in 1857, when one was planted in the Duke of Wellington's estate in Hampshire - hence its title. But the Iron Duke had died the year the tree was discovered so he never saw it.

J M THOMPSON

ما الدمل

## Matthew Norman

T Christmas, more even than the rest of the year, my bow-tied old friend Lord Wyatt of Weeford lights up the London party scene like a star going supernova. Last week, Woody graced Norman Lamont's bash in Notting Hill with such merriment that the party barely survived his early

departure. It did, however, and when about an hour later the phone rang. Woody's voice was heard leaving a message. "This is Lord Wyatt calling," he announced. "Stop the party at once. I repeat, the party must cease at once. I have lost my cigar. Stop the party, and form a search party. This is a matter of the utmost importance. My cigar must be found." Al-though close students of Woody's ocuvre will sense an echo from the the time Mr Saucy Squirrel lost his winter nuts, no one took a blind bit of notice. The party was in full swing half an hour later when the phone rang again. "This is Wyatt," said a familiar voice coming from the ma-chine. "The party may begin again. Tell the search party to stand down. I have found my cigar. I was sit-ting on it."

N invitation to a one-day conference about government has ar-rived and "the accountability of agencies" (to be held central London on January 28) sounds most tempting. Baroness Symons, formerly head of the union for top civil servants, will speak, as will Labour's Giles Radice and the constitutional expert Vernon Bogdanor. If none of that grabs you. there is always the 35-minute talk, beginning at 2pm, entitled "the problem of ac countability". The speaker should know all about that. He is David Willetts.

ROM Millbank come mixed signals on the industrial front. Oofy Wegg-Prosser, leader of New Labour's influential P G Wodehouse wing, de-nies that he is on strike . . and promptly fails to call back with a rebuttal of any kind, rapid or tardy. We asked Oofy to ask his boss, whether we might borrow his new chauffeur-driven Rover — the one supplied to him free of charge by night-club owner James Palumbo - over Christmas. Oofy promised to call back quickly, but never did so

his wildcat strike continues. As for the car, we will be returning to this in the New Year, with an exciting, brand-new "spot the Mandymobile" big prize

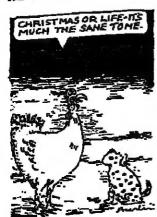
HERE is news, mean-while, of the man Oofy replaced, Dolly Draper. New Labour's very own Arthur Daley is writing a novel of Westminster intrigue. The Queen's Beasts. ("No. it is not a homophobic reference," says Dolly, "but an historical one.") It is coming on so well that the Sunday Times reports "strong interest" from publishers. In order to avoid disappointment, we have opened negotiations over serialisation rights. Since you plugged the book early, yes, you are in a strong position," says Dolly, "and I'd be delighted to continue my happy and productive association with the Guardian Diary." We cannot wait.

None of the most important parliamentary questions since Harry Greenway called for a legal way caned for a legat definition of the horse, the Tory back-bencher Cranley Onslow had asked the Health Secretary: "What investigations his Department is making into the in-cidence of latex allergy?" Junior minister John Horam directs him to a bulletin to do with sensitisa-tion to latex gloves in the Commons library (top shelf, we trust). What the hell is going on?

. . . .

. .

F Michael Howard needs something for his happy campers to do when morning exercise at Pontins is over, we refer him to Lieutenant Colonel Romeo Maganta, a police com-mander in Manila, Mr Maganta, who pays £3 for every 1.000 dead flies handed in, has now formed a committee of prisoners to count each batch, in order to make sure "that the city isn't being swindled".



## Forget politics, the real life is in art

#### Commentary

#### Hugo Young

Bing a political jour-nalist has many plea-sures, but carries a serious deprivation. There are no heroes in my life and work. Politics in the mod-ern era doesn't create the tasks that make for heroism, nor characters one would bet on showing it if called upon to do so. Looking back on 1996, I cast about for men and cast about for men and women to celebrate, and find none. All is cavil, compromise and feet of clay.

I have been lost in admiration a few times in 1996, but never once for a feat of politics. Yearning to include just occessionally in the investigation.

occasionally in the journal-ism of greatness, sometimes I wish I were Michael Billing-ton or Richard Williams.

The experiences that live with me have nothing to do with my profession. Feeling the need for something that really mattered, I never found it there. There's a whole vast interlocking industry of gov-ernment and media that feeds off politics, and I am part of it. filling all these columns, servicing the rage and some-

A long-delayed

sediment of Enro-rage, the sediment of Euro-rage, the multiple manipulation of truth, the impotence of power. The salient positive change of 1996, which is the solld improvement in Britain's competitive economic position would expert to the salient salient would expert to the salient sali position, would appear to owe no more than tiller-touching to politicians, and to have made no impact on the people it should impress as the most heroic achievement of the political class. The year ends as it began: with a government the people despise, running a country whose destiny it no

Chronicling brilliance is therefore a delight denied to people in my line of business.

Mention Robin Cook and the Scott Report, and you've just about exhausted the heroic moments. The nature of the politician's trade these days is the organising of minor triumphs and the avoiding of

major calamities.
To satisfy my thirst for greatness, I look elsewhere.

Len McKellen's Richard III will live in the memory long after the vacuous pretensions of John Redwood, scheming his way into the dust-bin of history, have been exposed for what they are. It is, to me, the finest film ever made of a Shakespeare play, partly be-cause it does not film the play but makes out of it a totally cinematic drama for modern

times the vanity of other players in the game. But what, at the end of the year, is left?

The dross of argument, the McKellen's subtry pliant vismesmeric up-close map of conspiratorial intent than McKellen's subtly pliant vis-age? I doubt it.

As a journey through mod-em British attitudes to class, race, deprivation, prosperity, relationship, how infinitely more durable is Mike Leigh's wonderful film, Secrets And Lies, than all the prating lec-tures of every politician in the House of Commons, so many of whom have been lining up this year to address themselves to the moral condition of Britain. This film has won many prizes. It en-dures in the heart and the head, transcends its own quotidian details, opens up the wondrous experience of un-conditional satisfaction.

So did Harrison Birtwhistle's The Mask of Orpheus, an tie's The Mask of Orpheus, an extraordinary, one-off rendition of which was put on at the Festival Hall in April. Here was a rebuke, among other things, to the market economics of the age: an undeviating modernist piece, a four-hour meditation on heroism and myth, for which every seat was taken. I sat just behind the composer, who was hunched next to the electronic controls that interplayed with two conductors, and felt my-self to be in the presence of a creative genius, transported into other worlds.

The same thing happened with Paul Schofield, playing John Gabriel Borkman in per-

kins and Vanessa Redgrave. This was acting in the grand manner, yet without a trace of over-indulgence or other

falsity. I felt just such absorption at the first preview performance of Pinter's Ashes To Ashes. To be present when a great piece of poetic drama makes its opening impact on an au-dience, the first audience it has ever had, with the author-director visibly twitching in the circle, somehow added to the tight, minute-by-minute excitement of the work itself. Yet compared with the endless first and last nights in the political arena, which always turned out to be inconclusive, Pinter's new play was granted slight admission to the national conscious

To produce a level playing-field, in this contest with the barrenness of domestic political life, I have picked five British experiences, Broaden-

They presume to change society, and in every headline and

bulletin their works are forced upon us. But they don't change people

ing the scope, I could have added Fargo and Lone Star, two masterly American films, Cézanne at the Tate, Jasper Johns at the New York Museum of Modern Art, Haitink's Ring, Schiff at the Wigmore Hall. Each drove home the banality, and yet the high presumption, of the material I presumption, of the material I write about. So did Ganguly's century at

Lord's, a small Bengali bats-man seeing the ball so early in his first Test Match that he

things to his party. But flawless admiration comes only from the followers. A journalist could never allow himself to indulge in such a feeling for any politician. The signal instance of what happens when that pro-fessional rule is forgotten is to be found in the fate of both journalism and politics when unconditional love was poured on Margaret Thatcher. Both professions were corrupted. Just as nei-ther a film nor a theatre critic is likely to find such simple

perfection as I sometimes do in the worlds they have to

follow.

All the same, this year I've envised them. In politics, it has been a year of sound and fury signifying very little. Every week we have heard an extremity of ranting and threatening, of panic followed by nullity and then more panic, of Labour's unprover promise and the Govern-ment's withered strength. Beside these mastodons,

culture has continued to scale the heights, untouched by their prosings about a world they have neither time nor interest to engage with Harrison Birtwhistle's triumph leaves Virginia Bottomley va-pourising to an empty hall. Jack Cunningham, her shadow, had trouble recalling when he last went to the movies. They presume to change society, and in every headline and bulletin their works are forced upon us. But they don't change people. For that, you look above and be-yond them, where life flour-ishes oblivious.

and the feeble targets set for reduction of industrial pollution, domestic energy consumption is still responsible for 30 per cent of our carbon dioxide emissions. At the most immediate level, poor insulation leading to burst domestic water mains and radiators cost Scottish local authorities £250 million after

last year's freeze. The Government seems to accept that the market can't deal with this problem. It spends £72 million a year on insulation grants for house-holds with means-tested benefits, which should get us back on track in just over 1,000 years. Until this year, the so-called "fossil fuel levy", extracting an annual £1 billion from consumers, provided the best chance we have had of sorting this mess out, but the Government de-

back to consumers as a £50 bonanza: this is not, per-haps, the most progressive or lasting way in which to redistribute a nation's assets. (Perhaps VAT on fuel, stingy and punitive as it is, could still be turned to good

UT, as the energy specialist Dr Brenda Boardno one is better placed to line the nation's lofts than the energy regulators. James McKinnon, the last gas regu-lator, insisted that British Gas invest directly in energy-efficiency measures, prin-cipally because of his concern about the depletion of North Sea reserves.

Clare Spottiswood, his successor, sagely decided not to encumber free enterprise with such impediments. The electricity regulator still wants £100 million to be spent over four years, but most domestic heating systems are now fired by gas.

Instead, however, regulators and ministers do not so much lag behind the problem of home insulation as ensure that we hardly do any lagging at all. In April, the Housing Minister, David energy report would be released. He promised it would be coming out in the summer. It is not hard to see why the promise was bro-ken. Despite pledges to provide for those in greatest need, the Government has been cutting the housing maintenance money it gives local authorities since 1991, the year the energy report was collated. On November

26 this year, it deprived them of a further £250 million. The Department of the Environment must have been pleased to see that its careful timing paid off: the report's release received no publicity whatsoever. I know that John Gummer's Christian devotions seem to have little to do with the policies his department pursues, but this surly endgame is surely one of his most diabolical devices. Better than anyone else, he knows that millions of British homes are hardly fit for asses, let alone babes

mas at home or fill up the desperately overstretched hospitals.

For the old, the very young and the vulnerable this Christmas, the best of all

## made England's fastest bowlers look like donkey-droppers. It is, of course, asking too much that politics should produce effects analogous with these. In politics, an acknowledgment of greatness is available only yoked to allegiance. There are people who think Tony Blair is already a great man, and he has certainly done some big things to his party.



Rachel Cusk

would be by Walt Disney. Easter, on the other hand, would be vintage David Cron-enberg; and the Daily Mail (currently in pursuit of the censors who will not ban his film Crash) would be after Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for distributing it. What these mythologies of

birth and death have in com-mon is that we find them satisfying enough to permit yearly screenings, while the modern purveyors of similar realities find their production lines halted by censure.

The truth of the "greatest story" is perhaps thought to have been neutered and ren-dered harmless by repetition. Its detail is engrossing enough to resemble reality, while elastic enough to appear mutable; so much so that the Mail on Sunday can de-scribe for us "how the Nativ-ity might go wrong today", bending the tale to promul-gate contempt for the bureaucratic, but in fact profoundly Christian, compassion of modern British society.

It is curious, then, that we should find ourselves so afraid of these great themes without their cosy carapace of interpretation; or rather that interpretation should be deployed as a kind of inverted armour, protecting us from the underlying reality.

This is not, in fact, a cen-tury in which one is required to make up stories to tell the truth. Rather, it is an era of words and pictures, two distinct forms of adventure powerfully combined as televi-sion. All artistic genres must negotiate this tarritory, en-camping themselves in adja-cent but less accessible regions, finding more oracular or intimate modes. Television is a mighty witness, continually in the dock of modern history, and yet there is a harrying quality to

the iconography of these events doesn't offend us; rather that we require more evidence of authorial respon-sibility for extracts from reality, some grounds on which to accuse television of choosing what it is going to see.

are to be filmed at their death. perhaps conceals a wider, more visceral and less easily articulated sense of wrong which extends far beyond the moral minority. The problems here are not groomed for debate like so many others

pertaining to reportage.
The presence of the cameraman or photographer is not questioned for its agency, as it can be, albeit foolishly, in a situation of remediable human suffering. Nor is there the resilient steeliness of the aesthetic sense which can make war photography so chilling. And yet, more than either of these examples, the notion of filming slow and certain death provokes the question why.

Why do you need to do it? What's the point? What separates it from the clearly contemptible public request in America for filmed state executions? Or the clearly per-verted desire to watch real death as entertainment, sinulations of it no longer being satisfying? If television won't observe the laws of decency as it goes about its revelations, then what stands between us and the clear view of what we're capable of? Who is going to protect us from ourselves?

Of course, we accuse televi-sion of inventing, or at least disseminating, evil when it suits us. People have always they have always killed for pleasure. Those who didn't want to presumably didn't, just as those with no interest in the Human Body series can always switch it off. In neither case does doing so obviate the event; merely that in the latter our sense of violation is

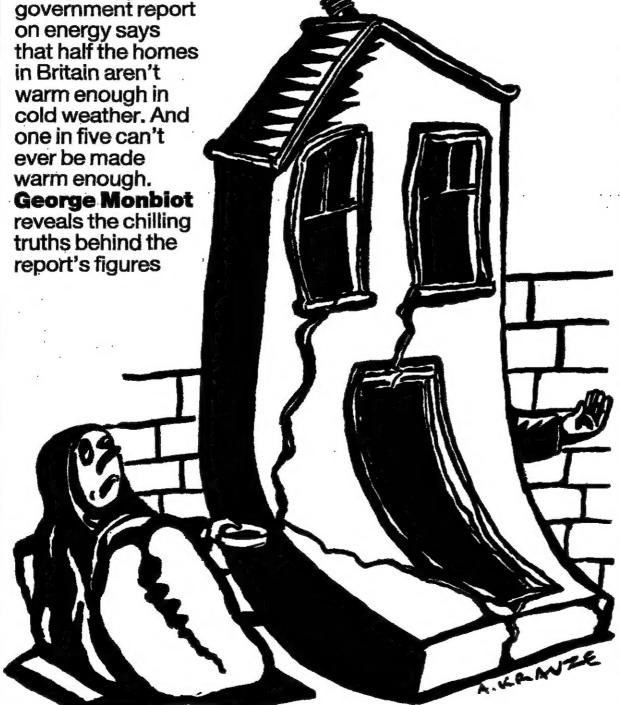
Selves from this sense elsewhere in our culture by discrediting ever realistic; but if we insist on accusing this culture of telling lies, of offering unreliable representations, then where else is truth to be pubsion? This is not truth in search of justice. It is merely in spirit identical (and in many ways superior) to those which have always been kept.

It should come as no sur-prise that objectivity lies our interrogations of it, as if under attack at the apogee of we wished to accuse it of a relativism, that reality seems crime itself. It would be fatu- painful to our increasingly ous to speculate on what addled and unrealistic spent on propping up the nuclear industry.

Now that this is no longer a national priority, most of the money has been given would happen were the birth and, more to the point, the tian story may serve to administer the lessons of life and death, of good and evil.

What is curious is not that For others, the footage of Nazi concentration camps, of famines in Africa, of violence achieves at least part of that

purpose. What it doesn't do is provide a happy ending by as-serting the value of virtue, The outcry which has greeted the BBC's decision to proceed with the filming of the Human Body series, in which terminally ill people ourselves.



## Bleak house

rouse suspicions of a cynical appeal to seasonal goodwill but, in the midst of our plenty, the words and images seem to come from another more noxious disease: a seasonal governage. Can people, in this soned and ingenious govern-superheated nation, really ment filibuster. Though have been left so far out in some researchers still blame the cold? But ask any doctor and you'll discover that, far from exaggerating, the appeals only hint at the size of the problem. It is not so which that the size of the problem.

the problem.

TS hard somehow to believe the advertisements which appear every Christmas, as regularly as the fairy

The somehow to be advertise around 30,000 more people in the winter than die during the summer. Most of the victims are either elderly desperate the situation is need the most attention are receiving the least Private. regularly as the fairy the victims are either elderly lights, asking for or very young Low temperamoney to help pensioners tures make the blood faced with the terrible choice of eating or heating.

Not only does the timing could be could

It is not so much that people whenever a cold snap like cannot afford to heat them (though many cannot); it is hospitals clear their wards in anticipation of the rush not afford to keep the

On November 28 - a mere five years after it was compiled — the Department of the Environment published the Energy Report from its

Survey.
There is little mystery about why it was suppressed until two days after the 1996 Budget. It is 400 pages long, meticulous and comprehensive, and the report's conclusions are chilling. When outside temperatures fall to a relatively cosy three degrees above freezing, 50 per cent of all households can no longer maintain minimum acceptable beating standards.

Only 5 per cent of English homes are energy-efficient, In anticipation of the rush.

When temperatures in Scotland fell to -18C over Christmas last year, there was a massive rise in admissions.

In anticipation of the rush.

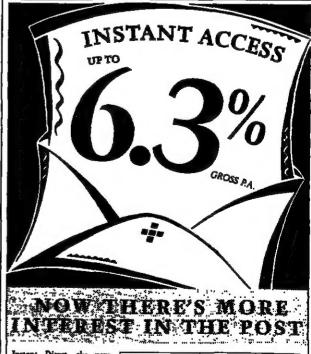
In anticipation

receiving the least. Private rented accommodation is in such a poor state that, were landlords to be forced to sort the problem out, many of 1991 House Condition them would simply with-survey. them the market.

The deficiency has been pushed under the carpet for so long that to bring the housing stock up to standard in England alone would now cost £80 billion. The human and financial costs of ignoring this crisis are far greater. The 30,000 people who will die of neglect this winter are just a fraction of those who will either shiver in the manger or venerable through a miserable Christwise men.

Poor insulation is one of the reasons why, despite the ment department that res-

Company of the first of the control of the control



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Ivor Roberts-Jones

## In a figurative landscape

by a wide public for one work. chill in Parliament Square, but it was not his finest

It was the same during his lifetime. Not only was he out of step with what was fashionable, but he was frequently commissioned to execute works that did not show him at his best. The point is that His forte was the exploration of character and the subtle manipulation of his materials. Yet he was in demand for monumental things, for por-trayals of "the great and the good." There were, for exame. two other Churchills, in Oslo (1975) and in New Orleans (1977), an Attlee (1978) in the House of Commons, the Augustus John Memorial at Fordingbridge, and Edinburgh, Somerset Maugham, Yehudi Menuhin, Rupert Brooke and many

Actually, Roberts-Jones was more at home teaching for his own preoccupation with technique made him sensitive to generations of students. He began to teach sculpture at Goldsmiths Col-lege in 1946, and in 1964 became head of sculpture. He once sadly observed: "I think that the more inventive side of my work has been sy-phoned off into my teaching." Another problem dogged his life and will affect his reputation. He was out of step with what was acclaimed. The welded and bolted assem-blages so fashionable in the 1960s and 1970s were just as alien to him as were Carl Andre's bricks and the perfor-mance art and installations of

Roberts-Jones was awarded

one given him in Cardiff by the Welsh Arts Council in 1978; yet he remained outside the mainstream of what was fashionable.

Nowhere was this clearer than when he was included in the exhibition held in Battersea Park in celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. In the company of Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Anthony Caro, Lynn Chadwick, Paolozzi and many younger sculptors producing abstract work, his contribu-tion looked firmly based on the homocentric traditions which, until the 20th century, had been at the heart of

Oswestry, Salop, trained at Goldsmiths College and the Royal Academy schools, and during the second world war fought in India and Burma. He was a deeply thoughtful man, and the controversy, sometimes acrimonious, often silly, which raged about the Parliament Square statue of Churchill was antipathetic to him. He disliked the public-ity. He was at his best when solving the abiding problems faced by the sculptor concerned with the human figure

Roberts-Jones was born in

E WAS clear about what he wanted to things vividly seen are, as I believe, abstractions, and starting work is the beginning of a move back to reality." At one time he made many studies of blind men, who he felt were "drawing the immediate space around them into themselves, as though breathing it in through their white sticks as they tapped out their pri-vate geography." He said that the sculpture he liked best had the same quality.

When Ivor Roberts-Jones CBE, he was an RA, and my various artistic awards cluding, in 1974, the Gold his life and work will be

HE SCULPTOR Ivor | Medal of the Royal Society of | resolved. He will be seen to have stood in the central tra-has died aged 83, major exhibitions, such as the one given him in Cardiff by | Because he was sensitive to Because he was sensitive to individuals, was ever exploring subtleties and was a devoted and vastly accom-plished craftsman, he will not be forgotten.

firm Mortey writes: I last saw Ivor Roberts-Jones at his home in Shimpling last spring. We had not met for many years and had corre-sponded only infrequently. I was in the Norwich area and he asked me over to see his recent work and have hinch.

Bobby was small, voluble and energetic, with a strong and vivid personality. His opinions on a wide range of subjects were, I discovered as lively, occasionally mali-cious, and trenchantly ex-pressed as ever.

ressed as ever.

I had intended to stay for a few hours. Typically, the visit somehow became ex-tended over the weekend, with Monica unobtrusively providing food and drink at uitable intervals; this was as enjoyable as our talk, which continued long into the night. dominated by Bobby's often wicked humour and reminis-

tire. We first met when I became student at Goldsmiths in 1954. Roberts-Jones was a figurative sculptor during a period when such a position was deeply unfashionable and lived mostly by his teaching lived mostly by his teaching at the time. At Goldsmiths he taught both drawing and sculpture, although he had originally intended to be a painter and often said that, as a teacher, he had probably helped more painters than sculptors.

He cartainly helped me. He had an authoridize off for the live of the l

He certainly helped me. He had an outstanding gift for drawing and always drew inessantly during the life class, both for the students' benefit and for himself. Unlike the



logically, stage by stage, never proceeding until the proportions and general con-struction were established

always draw an idea. Accuracy was not essential to good drawing, one often needed to exaggerate. All great drawings, he felt, contained an element of caricature — it nose even larger underestimate it. Above all what interested him was character. During some distinction, and his lyric gift is also very apparent in particular are rich in poetic metaphor and allusion. A sitter would often remind him of some animal, bird, or even a flower or plant, and he would speak, for instance, of someone's head as being a cross between an egg and a

young bullock. To watch him at work on a

an understanding that the you how they see things themselves. He mostly drew very quickly, and often quoted approvingly Hokussi's remark that you could not claim to draw unless you could draw two cranes standing in the water; one is just standing, the other is about to fly off. Hokusai once referred to himself as "the old man mad about drawing." The same could be said about Ivor

Francesco Siciliani

## The launching of Callas

who has died aged 85, was a key figure in postwar Italy's revival early careers of two leading divas, Maria Callas and Renata Tebaldi. He led major Italian opera houses and was ar-fistic director of Milan's La Scala from 1957-56 and again He gained fame as a great

impresario but trained as a musician — he was a musical prodigy, who played the plano in public at six. It was said that he learned to read notes before words. Born in Peru-gia, the son of a clarinet teacher, he studied music at the Plorence Music Conserva-tory in addition to gaining degrees in law and political science, skills that were to be of inestimable help when he came to order the Byzantine world of Italian opera. He gained a reputation during the 1930s as a composer, but decided on a career as an

His first post was as artistic director at the San Caro in Naples, from 1940-48; then be graduated to the same posi-tion at the Teatro Communale in Florence before crowning his career by moving to La Scala in 1957. He was director of the ill-fated La Fenice in Venice at the time of his

He created the international festival Sagra Musicals Umbra in Perugia in 1947, and from 1983 to 1990 he was president of the Santa Cecilia Academy in Rome, where he lived in the latter part of his life. He was also music consultant for Italian state

Siciliani was a discerning judge of exceptional talent. He was a marked influence on Callas's career. He first beard her, and was astonished by her voice, on a 1947 radio broadcast, and became an enthusiastic propagator of her career in consultation with the conductor Tulito Serain. As her husband Meneghini commented in his biography

her as early as 1949 to sing in vanna Battista at his Perugia Festival in 1951 he took her to the Maggio Musicale in Florence to sing Elena in Ves-pri Siciliani. He was instrumental in introducing her to the key parts in her career. Norma and Violetta in La Traviasa. From then on he to show off her career.

Some years later, when Si-



Siciliani . . . impresario

he again influenced Callas's repertory — as Meneghini reports: "It was Siciliani who suggested to Maria — after the success of her Norma, La Traviata and Lucia di Lammermoor, Rossini's Armide and Cherubini's Medea" These were to prove two of Siciliami was equally per-ceptive in employing the very different gifts of Tebaldi and the tenor Mario Del Monaco and in engaging conductors for relevant repertory, most notably Victor De Sabata, Ka-rajen and Dmitri Mitropoulos. He is survived by his wife Ambra and a son and

ministrator; born March 3, 1911;

Sir Basil Nield

## An elegy to the assize circuit

Beeching Report destroyed the assize circuit in 1972, Sir Basil Nield, who has died aged 93, had the distinction — which can now never be equalled — of being the only judge to have sat in every assize town in England and Wales. To coincide with their abolition, he published his own adjeu to the circuit system, Farewell to the Assize. an elegiac memoir illustrated by his own drawings and photographs.

He was the son of Liverpoo solicitor Charles Edwin Nield, a founding partner in the firm of Nield & Milligan, who later became a registrar in the Liverpool district registry of the High Court, the equivalent today of a district judge. Nield's mother was the first female graduate to obtain a doctorate from St Andrews University. His twin sister Beryl, who became the mayor of Chester, was his lifelong companion.

He was educated at Harrow

school and Magdalen college Oxford, before being called to the Bar in 1925. He joined the Inner Temple and the North-ern circuit, beginning prac-tice from the Liverpool cham-bers of Egerton Stuart Brown. he always showed, he quickly established himself as some one to be briefed by local so part in the ritual and becom-ing in turn junior, messenger

He joined the chambers of Sir David Maxwell-Fyffe, later Lord Kilmuir, whose influence led Nield into politics. In 1940 he was elected Conservative member for Chester, a seat he held for 16 years. In 1938 he had joined the officers' emergency reserve and was commissioned as captain in 1940. By 1941 he was serving as a major at GHQ MEF and was later on the HQ staff



Nield . . . judicial record

in East Africa, Abyssinia, Palestine and Syria, Persia and Iraq, reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He also served as president of the Pal-estine military courts martial in Jerusalem, and was mentioned in dispatches. He took silk in 1945 and five

in the celebrated Cameo murder case, then, at 13 days, the longest murder trial in English legal history. After a retrial, James Kelly was con-victed of the murder of Leonard Catterall. Nield was elected a master of the Inner Temple in 1952 and appointed the Recorder of Salford in 1952. Meanwhile in Parliament he had sponsored the became the Adoption of Chil-dren Act, which paved the way for adopted children to inherit in the same way as a natural child. He also served on the Home Secretary's Advisory Committee on the Treatment of Offenders, was a nember of the Magistrates'

> 1944 to 1950. His political career ended when he was appointed the first permanent judge of the crown court of Manchester, a position which would often lead to a High Court appoint-ment and one which be held from 1956 until his elev in 1960. In the 11 years before the ending of the Assize sys-tem — which had lasted for over 800 years — he literally toured the country before, in 1970, his arrival at Bury St Edmunds completed an ap-pearance in every Assize town. It was, perhaps, fortu-nate that along with photog-

Rules Committee and the hon-

orary parliamentary chairman of the Dock and Harbour

Authorities Association from

his life was travelling. Nield was as meticulous in his judgments as he had been in his practice. Rarely did he have to change the wording of his judgments. They were

rarely overturned, although the Liverpool solicitor, E Rez Makin, recalls that once, sitting in a case in which a dock worker had been decapitated at Garston docks, he accepted the argument that there must have been a safe system of work because this had never happened in 100 years. The Court of Appeal took the view that there was always a first

He became justice of the peace for the County Palatine of Lancaster in 1956 and as chancellor of the diocese of Liverpool sat in the Consis-tory Court. In 1961 he was appointed a governor of Harrow school, a position he held for 10 years. He was appointed a freeman of the City of London in 1963 and in 1977 he became the treasurer of the Inner

His last years were spent in the King Edward VII Conva-lescent Home for Officers at Osborne House on the Isle of ter, who died in the mid-1970s, ever married.

Basil Nield, judge and politician born May 7, 1903; died Decem-ber 4, 1996

ounch of ne'er-do-wells who

do not have steady work and would party all night. A group like this, sheltered by a

ber of construction/pro-

#### Christmas Birthdays

IF CNLYThe Winogradskys, who fled Tokmak on the Black Sea in the Tsar's era, had taken the boat for Ellis Island, NY, and not South-ampton. It would have been a different familiar narrative if tomorrow, had started out on the Lower East Side and not still don't have moguls like Lew in Britain — even though we have Lew, the country's too small and the motion pic-tures never got that big:

Imagine if the venue where Lew became charleston cham pion of the world had been Madison Square Gardens, not the Albert Hall; then when his knees gave way, he became a booking agent for vaudeville rather than music hall. He'd have been in there pitching deals in the wide-open decade when live talent was doing radio, and radio talent was prospecting televi-sion. Lew would have been in the TV production business - he would have been the business, from Desilu to Aaron Spelling he was ATV here, but ATV never even ed the size of his Mont Cristo Number Eight clears. The only talents he hired

that were ever big enough for him were the Muppets, and their background was vaude-ville. We imagine Lew and Kermit lunching on Caesar salad and examining the op-tions in Chasen's, LA; or Lew pinning a corsage of orchids on Miss Piggy and suggesting she lose a little lard. That hunch for talent - and his greatest all-star cast was



Christmas Eve birthdays John Ashcroft, former chairman, Coloroll Group, 46; Mair Barnes, former manag-ing director, Woolworths, 52, John Barron, actor, 76; James Bolger, racehorse trainer, 54; Ray Bryant, jazz planist, 65; Dr Anthony clare, psychiatrisf, broad-caster, 54; Colin Cowdrey, cricketer, 64; Jeremy Hind-ley, racehorse trainer, 53; Dame Joan Kelleher, former director, WRAC, 81; Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, Conservative MD, 80; John Morrek, 1 about MP, 60; John Marek, Labour MP, 56; Suzy Menkes, fashion editor, 53; Jenny May, photographer, 52; Thea Porter, fashion designer, 68; Norman Rossington, actor, 68; John Taylor, Ulster Unionist MP, 59; Carol Vorderman, broadcaster, 36; Philip Zlegler, biographer, 67.

Other Christmas Day birthdays: Princess Alexandra. 60; Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, 95; Lord Annan, educationalist, 80; Shells Browne, former principal, Newnham College, Cambridge, 72: Jimmy Buffett, country rock star, 50;

verment chief medical officer, 55; Genia Cohen, militant israeli politician, 69; Quentin Crisp, gay writer and humorist, 58; Barbara Follett, founder of Emily's List, 52; Prof Christopher Frayling, cultural historian, 50; Annie Lennox, singer, 42; Prof Gary McAllister, footballer, 32; Shane McGowan, rock singer. 48: Tony Martin. singer and actor, 83; Barbara Maxwell, actress, country singer, 48; Ismail Merchant, film producer, 60; Phyllida Paraloe, professor of social work, Bristol University, 66; Eve Pollard, journalist and broadcaster, 51: Noel Redding, rock musician, 51; Sissy Spacek, actress, 47; Phil Speckor, record producer, 56; Hilary Spurling, biographer and critic, 56; Steve War-iner, country singer, 42.

Boxing Day birthdays: Earle Brown, composer, 70; Prof Sir Colin Campbell, chairman Human Genetics Advisory Commission 52; Sir Alastair Dunnett, former editor, the Scotsman, 88; Ro-han Kanhai, former cricketer, 61; Eric Kinder, chairman, Smith and Nephew, 69-Thea King, professor of the clarinet, Guildhall School of Music, 71; Jane Lapotaire, actress, 52; Denis Quilley, actor, 69; Caroline Reynolds producer, Coronation Street, 41; Mark Robinson, Conservative MP, 50; Richard Skin-ner, disc jockey, 45; Anna Scher, founder, Anna Scher Theatre, 52; Ilona Staller (La Cicciolina), Italian politician and actress, 45; Noblle Walsh, agony aunt, 44

Prof Kenneth Calman, go-Richard Richardson writes: It was my very good fortune to be a friend of Anna Pollak (obituary, November 30) for the past 25 years. I visited her cottage many times and Anna would boast of her 23-year-old cat, which she often laughingly remarked was older than she was. She, in turn, visited my humble miner's home — the demise of the coal-mining industry worried this diminutive little mezzosoprano. She loved my pick-led shallots and bestroot, saying they "tasted like wine". And I shall miss her good coffee and tasty cake, above all her friendship. At times, she would remonstra with me when I was at odds with the world and all its injustices, and say: "We have all got to live in it."

#### Death Notices

DONISKA, Maria, planist born 21st December 1985, at home. Fu vice at 2pm, on Friday 27sh Dec Boughton Maiherbe Church, nea

## Jackdaw



#### **Big hit**

TORONTO'S Church of the Universe: Our Mission is to worship God and live with The Tree of Life Marijuana in Harmony With the Universe. Alas, so devoutly has the Bishop Reverend Brother Michael J. Baldasaro, a bishop of the Church of the Universe, been spreading the Good News that he was recently hauled up before the beak and charged with trafficking in this sucrament of faith. A court report on the reveals that he appeared before the Justices of peace mearing his underpants on his head in protest against being relieved of his natty hemp sear.

#### Hidden forces

THE first hint of electronic harassment started along with the fake wrong num-bers. Most nights before a working day, I would have just fallen asleep when the phone ringer started to "ping" irregularly. When I picked up the receiver, there was no dial tone, and what I heard was the sound of the wire pair being stroked across (probably) a 120 volt AC power source. After a few months, the phone ringer pinging slacked off, and was eplaced by car alarms going off just as I got to sleep. At New Year's, 1993, my next door neighbour moved. I was puzzled because it appeared he just moved down the hallway. A young girl with a toddler moved in next door. Shortly afterwards, the super's son moved in, and five types of harassment started almost immediately: Rapping on the wall between my apartment and the super's son's girlfriend Extremely loud conversation among visitors who

passed by my door on the way

to visit the super's son. Lots of fake wrong-apartnent rapping on my door. Very obvious manipulation of the hot/cold water mix every time I showered. Periods of extremely loud music from the super's son's girlfriend's apartment. The music forced me to

complain to the super. The super pretended not to know who was in that apartment initially. I believe that the super is more than just a "hired hand." He gives the appearance of being very much one of the construc-tion/building management "good old boys" in this city. At the end of 1993, the uper's son moved to another floor. The harassment group, including the super's son turned this vacancy to their advantage. They "renovated" the apartment next to mine, working only nights and weekends, and using as much noise as possible. They were obviously going as slowly as possible. They would plan at least one wall bang as heavy as any supersonic boom just after I started avening meal. This group included a

Magazine Communication Communi

perty management "good old boys", and who could easily have unlimited amounts of cash from members who sell drugs, could easily find the cash needed to get expert ad-vice and equipment. I believe drug money is what allows them access to the transmitters and receivers needed to perform even the simple task of detecting where a neigh-bour's portable radio is tuned. It is also just possible that among this group there was someone with family or other good connections to government security work. I believe that there are plenty of retired and laid-off govern ment security personnel who had access to the non-lethal electronic weapons technol ogy and who would be happy to help for the right price. Extract from a window to a tortured soul at the Experime

tol Xmtr Builders, Help

Needed website at www.ne-

taccess.on.cu/-raven1/ The

website storts by pleading for

weapon to demonstrate his plight. help to make a mind control

#### Cool spice THAT evening down the pub he walked in and sat at the table with his mates. "Spice

Girls" was all he said - and all his cronies nodded sagely For the next hour-and-a-half they nursed their pints and discussed the merits of each spice. Paul started: "Victoria she's pretty classy, but she looks a bit posh for me. Now that red-head Geri on the other hand..." And it went rapidly downhill from there. Blonde Emma was quickly dismissed: "Too cutesy," and the sporty one: "Bit of a tom-boy." Which left the debate to centre on the descision between Victoria, Geri and Mel B. Mel B was generally rated third, although as one of them said: "That plerced tongue it could reach ... places." Vic-toria was placed second in the informal poll: "She's fit, but she doesn't smile . . ." But top of their collective pops was Geri: "She's not rakethin," "She rocks out" "She

looks like she'd be up for it." That wasn't the end of it. in subsequent weeks I was treated to analyses of Wanna ee's lyrics: "If she's singing If you wanna be my lover you gotta get with my friends,'

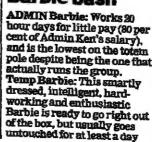
does that mean I get to shag them as well?" And " If 'Easy V doesn't come for free,' does that mean I could pay her to sleep with me?" Like, really deep stuff. And there was the endless watching and rewatching of the video so he could see the bit where Geri

"almost bashes into the can-delabra." Then the pop mags started to print posters. At first he brought them just to "read the interviews," but when I found the posters taped roughly across the back of his wardrobe door. I knew I had cause to worry. I didn't want to nag. I didn't want to come across as the possessive girl-friend from hell but when he started commmentating. "Red hair would suit you," I began to

Eloise Holloway in Sky magazine describes the Spice Syndrome that every girl in the country is being forced to

despair.

#### Barbie bash



while everyone tries to figure out why they bought her. Pull the string on her back and she'll stuff envelopes indefinitely, all the while wondering why she got a liberal arts

Ripped-Off-In-The-Divorce-Settlement Barbie: Pull the string on her back and she unloads a torrent of insults and death threats for her ex's new wife. Comes with a hatred for all men, and a Malibu Barbie tan (except for a white band on her left hand ring

finger).
Twelve-Step Barbie: Pull the string on her back and she says, "Hi, I'm Barble and I'm an alcoholic." Comes with a "One Day At A Time" bumper sticker, a 30-day chip, and a pack of smokes. The humour listserver gives the Barbles that we woon't be seeing under the Christmas Tree.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail ockdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

**Emily Sheffield** 

Apple founder tempted to take another bite, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

## Finance Guardian

## Northern bid in cliffhanger

THE REAL PICTURE/Bolton Wanderers' winning combination could revitalise part of

North-west badly hit by job losses. Photograph: Don McPhee/Words: Martyn Halsall

### Takeover Panel holds key to fate of electricity firm

Patrick Denomin City Editor

tric's survival was last night hanging in the balance as the Takeover Panel considered the company's ap-peal against the extension of a crucial bid deadline which

power supplier falling victim to a 1762 million offer from US predator, CE Electric. Directors of the panel were

deliberating their verdict late into the night as they prepared to make a statement which will decide the outcome of the closely fought bid, which is due to close at an extended deadline of 1pm today. Their decision will be based

was made to Northern's anvi-sors, BZW, in contravention of market rules. The panel au-nounced that the bid closing deadline had been extended from lpm Friday until today in order to allow time for panel inquiries.

A delegation from Northern and its financial advisers, BZW and Schroders, yester-day appealed for the panel to stick to the original time-table. The panel's decision is crucial for the company, as Northern had held on to its independence by the skin of its teeth by the original Friday deadline. When the votes were counted, the bidder had failed to muster a majority holding, with just 49.77 per cent of shares.

But after the panel decision

whether a £250,000 payment | acceptances for the US bid | week BZW assured the panel | electricity sector. CE Electric was made to Northern's advi- | pushed CE Electric past the | that it made the investment | has already been forced to winning line.
If the panel rejects the

Northern appeal it looks inevitable that the company will be taken over by the US bid. Northern shares were yes-terday suspended at 638p because of the uncertainty sur-rounding the company. This compares to the bid price of 650p a share. The controversy surround-

ing a £250,000 performance fee

related to the quality of advice given by BZW to Northern. This comes on top of a £1.5 million flat fee for handling the takeover defence.
The controversy started after BZW and Schroders were quizzed by the Takeover Panel over their purchase of 24 per cent of Northern's

on its own behalf and had not been influence by any payment from Northern. Although BZW insists that

the payment conformed to all market rules and was uncon-nected with its decision to purchase shares in the mar-ket, the broker felt object to draw the panel's attention to the payment on Friday. This resulted in the bid deadline being extended pend-

ing an inquiry. A BZW spokes-man last night insisted that the sum did not represent any kind of "success fee". The BZW team is led by Simon de Zoete, a direct de-

founded the broking firm. Yesterday's events promis

raise its original offer from 630p and has bought a near 30 per cent stake in the market. If the company is taken over, it will become the

from Entenergy, a power com-pany based in New Orleans.

fourth privatised regional electricity company to have been bought by a US predator. Two months ago, Virginia-based Dominion Resources agreed to pay £1.6 billion for East Midlands Electricity. Earlier this week London Electricity was the target of £1.27 billion merger plans

US companies are being drawn into the market by the commercial attractions of operating in the lightly regu-lated British electricity mara cliffhanger climax to one of ket, due to be thrown open to the most dramatic bids in the free competition from 1998.

### **Bring City stars** down to earth



Alex Brummer

day movies likely to raise a belly laugh, rather than a stomach full of sentiment, is National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. For those who have missed the last half-dozen showings, this slightly ham-fisted at-tempt by Chevy Chase, as head of the Griswold clan, to take on some of the shibbo-leths of the season, from the succulent turkey to the fire-side family gathering, largely revolves around the failure of an anticipated annual bonus to arrive. As our hero day-dreams of his family cavorting around a new swimming pool, it becomes apparent that

a middle-class American family have turned to dust.
It is possible to attack such bonuses as an outdated form of paternalism. But the truth is that for certain sectors of the economy, and the City is perhaps the best example, bo-nuses have displaced salaries as the most important form of payment. In fact the bonuses have become so large, that some recipients use them as a means of paying off debts -an overdraft or mortgage and downshifting to a lower

the dreams and aspirations of

paid, more intellectually satistying and rewarding job. but in boardrooms generally, bonuses (like executive pay) are out of hand. They have reached levels which bear no relationship to the value of economy and which set a dan-

to reach back to the late 1980s to find a time when so much cash has flowed from the high City firms into the pockets of their employees. The Sunday Telegraph reported last week-end that about 1,500 City brokers and bankers will receive £500,000 or more in bonuses in the next few weeks, after one of the most profitable years in the history of the fi-

nancial community.
It can be argued that such bonuses are essential if the UK is to maintain its edge as Europe's, if not the world's, most important financial centre, and certainly a star City dealer is not necessarily any less deserving of a bonus than Alan Shearer or the Spice Girls.

BUT THERE are greater dangers involved. One of the key reasons that senior management at Barings, prior to the February 1992 collapse, were unwilling to question the income flows might have affected their Similarly, the big scandal of

1996, Peter Young's diversion into a fantasy world of investment of the funds he managed at Morgan Grenfell, might have been less attractive if his seniors at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, most of whom have subsequently been sacked, had not been so well incentivised. The Bank of England is among the regula-tors that have been deeply wary of remuneration schemes that rely too much

ently wrong, however, in people garnering rich rewards for adding to the national wealth. At the fringes there may be potential abuse, such as the £250,000 earnings bonus BZW is claiming in its defence of Northern Electric or the £547,000 pay-off just revealed for the former Lucas financial director John Grant, a casualty (but in reality a major beneficiary) of the

It is is up to the regulatory system to deal with the abuse, whether through corporate governance mechanisms or tighter compliance, and the tax system to deal with excess. Herein lies an opportu-nity for Labour which rightly won public support for its campaign against excess in the public utilities — which in turn resulted in the Greenbury committee and the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke's efforts to tax share options.

Mr Clarke was on the right lines with the share options tax and has reinforced his credentials as a reforming chancellor with his swipe at profit-related pay in his November budget. This, however, is a soft-shoe shuffle. Plainly, it is understandable that Labour wants to avoid at all costs being viewed as a high-taxation party, hence the internal debate over the an inflation-prone economy
— to the larger number of employees seeking higher pay settlements, to press for them at the Labour leader's hard won support in the Murdoch press; it could potentially provide an easy target for the tray Labour as the tax-andspend party and it might, at the margins, be seen as anti-Dustness.

The advantages of such a tax are that it would underpin Mr Blair's Christian Socialist credentials in a clear and understandable way and could harden his support among traditional Labour supporters. But as Mr Blair and his shadow chancellor. Gordon Brown, are sware, there are many different ways of penalising those on very comfortable, even excessive incomes in the name of

This could be done by watering down the tax reliefs availiable on pension contri-butions and the funds into which they are paid; the rules governing capital gains (espe-cially on share bonuses or sales) could be tightened; rollover relief — an instrument widely used for small businesses selling out — could be removed. Restoring from the Far East brought in fairness to the taxation sysby Nick Leeson's apparently tem is a laudable goal.

added by customers.
These changes follow criti-

cism from franchisees - the

people who pay McDonald's

for the privilege of being

allowed to sell its burgers.

The Deluxe line, introduced

earlier this year, has drawn unflattering reviews from an-

alysts, who called them "mag-

The company, which has 18,300 outlets worldwide, has

sent a memo entitled "Maxi-mising Taste at McDonald's,"

to franchisees. It contained

detailed cooking instructions.

tive vice-president Thomas

Glasgow, disseminated the

cooking tips after McDonald's

The memo's author, execu-

nificently mediocre".

#### jobs coming to the North- month construction period The out-of-town shopping field acheme porth of Mobil swap eases BG's burden |Finance chief

vides some compensation for the closure of the railway works, which once which will also include a

RITISH Gas claimed last night to have unscram-bled nearly a fifth of its burden of financially crippling long-term gas contracts when it announced agreed terms with Mobil to swap North Sea assets for more competitive

FOOTBALL fans are flocking to an empty pitch eight months before

kick-off as the new Bolton

Wanderers stadium, part of the £150 million Middle-

brook development, takes

generation of service-sector

supply terms.

The deal is the second within a month and follows an earlier breakthrough with British Petroleum. Both are said to account for 10 per cent

British Gas is handing over a 5 per cent interest in the Beryl gas field, a near 30 per cent stake in a block in the Nevis field and 2.5 per cent in the Scottish Area Gas Evacu-

way works, which once

dominated the nearby town

of Horwich, and large local

About 2,500 workers will

be employed during the 18-

Aerospace

British

ation system. The asset swap is a benchmark for later deals with companies like Shell which are likely to see British Gas trading slugs of its prize UK asset, the Morecambe Bay gas field. British Gas was saddled with commitments to take huge amounts of gas on long-term deals before it lost its

To clinch a deal with Mobil, | has been left with pricey gas | it cannot sell. Like BP, Mobil has agreed to cut the amount of gas being

10-acre business park,

250,000 sq ft of offices, six restaurants, a retail park, a

120-bedroom hotel and a

Agreement for the green-

new railway station.

supply subsidiary which is to be demerged from BG's other main business, the TransCo pipelines business, in February.

Centrica will

The assets being taken over by Mobil will boost the oil company's North Sea presence considerably. The comto cut the amount of gas being taken by British Gas and the selling price. But the companies refused to put a precise value on the latest deal.

The deal is crucial to the companies refused to put a precise value on the latest deal.

The deal is crucial to the companies of commenting on the agreement news of which was

west of England and pro- | and more than 3,000 perms- | Bolton has made local trad- | and leisure complex in- | marketing manager, said:

ers fear lost business and jobs, but the 1,000-strong Bolton and Bury Chamber

Middlebrook "on balance"

Bolton council is one of

the three partners in the

scheme, agreed after a pub-

lic inquiry.

February.
Cantrica will reduce its commitment to buy gas from Mobil by cancelling two contracts and prices reduced on the and prices reduced on the contracts. I am delighted that our overall take or-pay problem is significantly reduced."

## Grant leaves LucasVarity

Paudine Springett

HE revamp of Anglo-American engineering group LucasVarity imed its first high profile victim yesterday with the surprise resignation of finance director John Grant.

Warner Bros cinema and

McDonald's. The site,

alongside the M61, will ac-

dium will provide a new

century in the town. Nigel Bell, Wanderers'

commodate 5,000 cars.

Mr Grant is being replaced by Neil Arnold, who was Varity's chief fi-nencial officer for six years before the £3.2 billion merger of Lucas and Varity earlier this year. Mr Grant was on a two-

year rolling contract and last year received a total package of salary, bonus and pension contributions of £288,000. He is understood to be in line for a payoff of £576,000. He also has options over 840,000 ordinary shares at 95p each. Lucas Varity's shares

closed down 6p at 226.5p yesterday. If Mr Grant sold them at that price, he would make a profit of around £1.1 million.

His resignation is likely to be taken by the City as evidence that the former drawn from Lucas. The chief executive of the combined group, Victor Rice, was formerly head of

from supporters and the

business community has

Naming rights to the sta-

dium are open to offers. Wanderers hope to cele-

with a return to the

been tremendous."

home for Wanderers after a brate next year's opening

A company spokesman yesterday vehemently de-nied that Mr Grant had Arnold was felt by the board to have more global experience," he said. Like his predecessor, Mr Arnold is 49 years old and British. Sir Brian Pearce, chairman of LucasVarity, conceded that Mr Grant had been "disappointed" that he was not being retained. "John had designs on becoming a chief executive of-

ficer at some stage in his

career." he said.

The group is embarking on a sweeping £250 million restructuring which will result in the loss of 3,000 jobs and the sale of 13 businesses. The revamp is aimed at saving £120 million a year from January 1999. The disposals cover sales of £270 million and represent 6 per cent of the tles will be one third of the group's managers.

Last month the company warned the City that it faced a downturn in demand for diesel compo-nents and braking equip-

ation package at this stage.

#### McDonald's wises up to the poor taste of wilted lettuce rivals, the trimmings are

Work Trees in Bow York

cDONALD'S may be con-quering the world with its Big Macs but it is having problems selling them back home. The fast-food corporation with a presence in 101 countries is being forced to change its recipe after its own research showed people pre-Wendy's and Burger King.
McDonald's, admitting that
it overcooks some burgers, is

planning to add salt and pepper to the ingredients, rather than relying on tomato ketchup to give them their taste. For the "Arch Deluxe", its new burger aimed at adults, McDonald's will even break with its long tradition of slapping the lettuce and tomato along with the burger into a

microwave, a practice that world's first name in fast food makes Big Macs taste of still has a few things to learn warm, wilted lettuce. At

chairman Michael Quinlan spoke of solving "product taste challenges".

The memo implies that the world's first name in fast food

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

France 8.50 Italy 2,504
Germany 2.522 Malta 0.585
Greece 403.00 Malta 0.585
Notherlands 2.832
India 59.73 Ireland 0.978 Portugal 255.30
Italy 2,504
Malta 0.585
Notway 10.525
Portugal 255.35
Saudi Arabia 6.23

16age

for this period

Francis Call

## each of a backlog of long-term, take-or-pay contracts, which British Gas has said are worth about £3.5 billion.

Chancellor faces new rate row

Sarah Ryle

HANCELLOR Kenneth Clarke will come under pressure from the Bank of England to raise base rates again early in the new year, the minutes of his October meeting with the governor, that one in Eddie George, suggested be enough.

yesterday.
This could cause a new row tighten monetary policy (0.25 percentage points). He again for fear of damaging the again for fear of damaging the expected to urge him not to electorate's sense of economic well-being before the general

City analysts also said that the minutes lessened the over the next two years".

chances of a rate rise after the January 15 meeting. Although the Chancellor granted the Bank's demands for a rise in rates to 6 per cent in October, the minutes of the monthly monetary meeting showed he tried to dampen down Mr George's concern that one increase might not

The governor said there had been a "textbook, domesbetween the pair as Mr tically-driven upswing in the clarke's Tory colleagues are economy" and recommended economy" and recommended an urgent 25 basis-points rise enough to moderate the upswing sufficiently to restore a better-than-evens chance of achieving the inflation target he acted on the Bank's recom-

He was concerned about the | per cent flash estimate of ecoinflation to 2.9 per cent and warned about price rises in retail sector and falling Mr Clarke focused on non-

such as benign producer price inflation in a still unsteady manufacturing sector. Mr George's call for instant tightening, which he said was

September rise in underlying nomic growth in the three months to September. But he noted that the acceleration in the service sector, parts of the activity was not startling. He added that although he expected retailers to have a good Christmas, there was no retail price inflation factors sign of an excessive consumer

Simon Briscoe, of Nikko essential to reduce the need for a bigger rise in base rates at a later date, was countered by the Chancellor who argued that there were no immediate inflationary pressures.

In ocase for a rise of more than no case for a rise of more than a rise of more than no case for a rise of more inflationary pressures.

The minutes showed that the GDP figures for the fourth he acted on the Bank's recom-mendation after seeing the 0.8 flation report."

bank, said: "Crucially, the Chancellor spoke about seeing no case for a rise of more than

Varity directors may be taking precedence over the ex-Lucas board — despite the fact that the initial merger saw eight of the 14strong management team

nents and braking equipment.

A group spokesman said he was not prepared to disclose Mr Arnold's remuneration package at this stage.

Austria 17.74
Betglum 51.90
Canada 2.235
Cyprus 0.76
Denmark 9.89
Finland 7.67

Australia 2,04

Q: Who did Bank of England Q: Who did Bank of anguar governor Eddie George warn off taking artificial stimulants? A: European countries making a "headlong" dash to meet the convergence criteria for monetary union.

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLING

Fouls, floats, **Footsie** and footie. Try your hand at our **Xmas** quiz

Pit your wits against this quiz | to test your knowledge of the financial news this year. Set by Ian King, Dan Atkinson and Sarah Ryle

Hatches

1. Which of the following hotel companies floated this year on the stock market; Millennium and Copthorne; Principal Hotels; Jarvis Hotels; Macdonald Hotels; Thistle Hotels?

Matches

2. Which company an-nounced plans to more than double in size through an ambitious American acquisition, only to find sharehold-ers less than enthusiastic? 3. Which company decided to ring the Royal?
4. Which of the following companies did the notori-ously predatory UK Active



Value fund not have a stake in this year? (a) Westminster Scaffolding; (b) Greycoat; (c) Kenwood Appliances; (d) Hogg Robinson. 5. Several takeover blds were

in living memory". One of the most tedious involved a property company and a south London department store scrapping it out. Who were they and what happened?

6. Shortly after winning its \$2.9 billion tussle with Rocco Forts, what company did Grant Property and what company did Grant Property and what company did Grant Property what company did Grant Property and Compan Forte, what company did Granada launch a dawn raid on? 7. Apart from BT, which was the other Footsie company to announce a multi-billion merger with a US company? 8. Quoted restaurant groups were all the rage this year. Who tucked into My Kinda Town and Pelican Group? 9. When the crackle went out of the electricity sector, water was the next utility to excite takeover fever. Which was the first water company to get

taken over, and who bought it? 10. Who got Carter? . Match the following blo ders and targets involved in hostile bids this year. Wessex Water, Granada, Macallan-Glenlivet, BET, Southern Electric, Rentokil, Ely's of Wimbledon, ScottishPower, Lloyd's Chemists, William Cook, Forte, Gehe, Southern Water, Highland Distilleries, South West Water, TR European Growth Trust, Triplex Lloyd, Panther Securities, Un-ichem, Severn Trent, Klein-

wort European Privatisation

Trust.

12. Before its merger with
MCI, who did British Telecom originally try to make a con-nection with? escribed as "the most boring 13. Who owns Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all?



Despatches 14. Which company had the shortest stay in the Footsie

15. What did retiring Eurotunnel boss Sir Alastair Morton receive as a present at his leaving bash? 16. Which high street

retailer's proposed flotation was rained off for the second time in as many years? 17. One of Britain's bigge companies changed their famous name just months after triumphing in one of the year's biggest takeover bids.

Who was it, and why? 18. Which professor, while not mad, sent his employers

into a rage? 19. Michael Lawrence found himself looking for a new job on January 4. What did he do and who replaced him? 20. One by one, the old corporate raiders of yesteryear fell away in 1996. Which of them decided that four into one did go, and which fell foul of Vi-

king raiders?
21. Which was the mouse that roared at building giant Red-land — but still fell into French control?

22. Which Fleet Street press baron was replaced by a socialist peer. 23. Which of the following did not go into administrative receivership? (a) Coal Invest ments; (b) Chamberlain

Phipps; (c) SeaPerfect. 24. Apart from Lords Hangon and Stevens, which other peer shood down from heading a Footsie company this year? 25. Where wasn't Mum going any more? 26. The Rank Organisatio disappeared this year. True or False?

27. Which were the two drinks companies that saw the fix disappear from their relationship?

Re-hatched 28. Who was reinstated, after he got the chop, becaus

in the money 29. Who has been waiting nearly all year to scoop

can million? 30. Who decided that they couldn't do without the ultimate executive toy? 31. Who was awarded £3 million in compensation by the High Court after claiming he was struggling to find work?

and out of it 32. How many profits warnings were put out in January?
(a) none; (b) five; (c) eight; (d)

33. Who gave up a £200,000-a-year job to spend more time with homeless alcoholics? with homeless alcoholics?

34. Who said they were taking their company private, only to change their mind?

35. Who was sent realing by alcohops, and who sent the alcohops spinning?

36. How many profits warn-



ines did tour operator Inspirations put out? (a) three; (b) two; (c) one; (d) none. 37. Which market saw nearly every player's profits wiped out after the year's most vi-cious price war, and who

Power plays
38. What, according to American economist Rudigar Dorn-busch, is rather like finding

has a twin sister? 39. What happened to the Chancellor's Wise Men in January? Can you name three of them? 40. Which economist's imperfect grasp of information won him the Nobel Prize? 41. What, according to a book

caused such alarm? 43. Which famous boys' club admitted a woman?

is Asda chairman Archie Norman contesting for the 15. Which of the following companies is not headed by 1 46. At the end of the year, who

out that your mother-in-law

by Roger Bootle, the chief economist of City firm HSBC, died a death this year? 42. Who did not like what he saw in The Mirror last month —and what was it that

44. Which parliamentary sea

(a) Northern Poods; (b) Arjo Wiggins Appleton; (c) United News and Media; (d) The

halted after about 50,000 were sold in 4% years. The software developed for it

looked more promising.

Apple is looking for a new operating system for its computers after its own costly attempt to develop one was abandoned when it

ran into a sea of problems. But NeXT's software

skills were not Apple's first

choice. It wanted to take over another software com-

pany called Be, but failed

after the two sides were unable to agree terms.

Mr Johe's other company, Pixar Animation Studios, made Toy Story, the all

computer-animated film which became a box-office hit and turned its star.

Buzz Lightyear, into the most sought-after toy this Christmas.

of Apple, the superhere

was chief executive of Lon-rho? (a) Tiny Rowland; (b) Nick Morrell; (c) Dieter Bock; (d) Mohammed Al-Fayed. 47. Name the football clubs associated with these millionaire businessmen: (a) Sir

investment Company



ack Hayward; (b) Steve Gib son; (c) Alan Sugar; (d) Lionel Pickering; (e) Daniel Fisz-man; (f) Jack Walker; (g) Chris Akers; (b) Stephen Boler; (i) Owen Oyston; (j) Dan McCauley; (k) Peter

Grave news 48. Which grand old name returned after a 70 year 49. Which famous old name puffed back to the market in October after a 10 year 50. Who reportedly went west rather than face the beak? 51. Who hopes to have got as-bestos off its chest? 52. What was Sir John Harvey-Jones's day in court?

in the courts

Scandal talk 53. Scotland Yard detectives saved which country from bankruptcy?
54. Which ex-tycoon was jailed for jiggery-pokery in the art world?

Tittle-tattle

55. Following various corporate activities in 1996, how many quoted football clubs

are there? (a) seven; (b) eight; (c) nine: (d) 10, 56. Which of the following companies did not have an annual or extraordinary general meeting dominated by questions from special interest groups? (a) RTZ; (b) Shell; (c) Costain; (d) Lloyds TSB; (e) Hanson; (f) BAT

Industries.
57. Which Footsie company got its kangaroos tied down by the aborigines?
58. Which company decided to Do It All alone? 59. Why did Welwyn Hatfield council have a row with

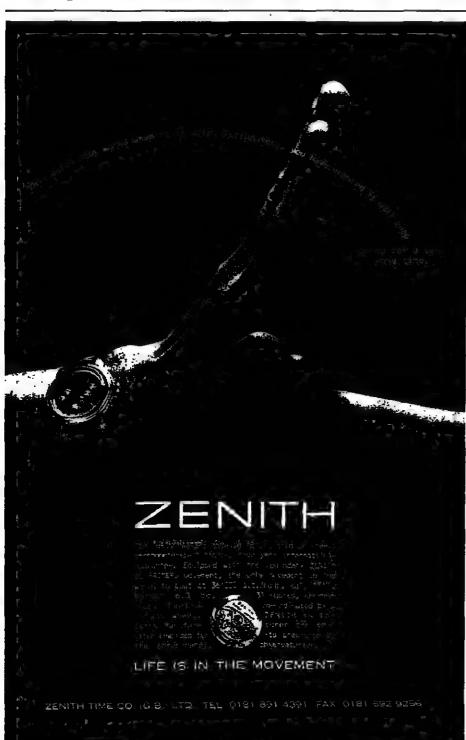
**Dalglis** 

into go

With Lawrence

Slough?
60. Name the investment group that was forced to stop taking on new business after huge problems surfaced in its computerised settlement





### Apple founder tempted back to take second bite





Steve Jobs's return casts him as struggling computer company's Buzz Lightyear, Nicholas Bannister reports

get the chance of a could bitte of the summ apple. But Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple Com-puter who left the group after a boardroom putsel in 1985, is the exception. Mr Jobs is to get a second chance to restore Apple's lion (£240 million) takeover of his NeXT software company. He will report to the current chairman, Gilbert Amelio, and be expected to breathe new life into the group's software busin Mr Amelio made no bones about the magic he expects from Mr Jobs. Apple, he said, was welcom ing back "its most talented

visionary". "Steve Jobs is someon who can inspire a new gen-eration of customers and software developers and show that Apple remains the industry home for innowation and excitement."
Mr Jobs, who claimed that much of the industry had been living off the

group's Macintosh com-puter for the past 10 years, forecast another break-forecast another break-through which would leap-frog existing platforms and "fuel Apple and the indus-try copycats for the next 10 years and beyond".

Stirring stuff, but Apple needs more than inspiration to survive. No one has challenged its record for innovation, but commer-cial success has been elasive and Mr Jobs first parted company with Apple because for all its wizardry it was being swamped by the Wintel combination — IBM-compatible personal computers using Microsoft Windows and Intel microprocessors.

Since leaving Apple, Mr Jobs has had successes and failures. He co-founded NeXT and owns half of the

Mr Jobs has now been cast as the Buzz Lightyear Company.

However, the cube-like computer it designed and manufactured attracted litwho comes good in the end. Apple fans will welcome his return. But real life might tle more than critical prove tougher than film fantasy. Manufacturing was

Answers to business quiz

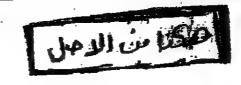
ever in interactions (8) Phymoldin Argyles (b) Eventuer. Eventuer. Excellent in the submire was deceled for Eventuer. Excellent in the submire was deceled from themselves and immediately consist and immediately consist which the submire and immediately consist which the submire and immediately consist which the submired to company when between the magnitude and consist and in hovember it are not not the immediately in the submired as deal for the submired submired submired as deal for the submired s

www. Garry Robinson and Charles Allen, who relatives Fourth and who relative forta's corporate jet despise pleadying to got vid all fluding their bid bestles for the company.

33, John Garri, transine older escuelling of their who were suched silts absolute set.

32, Cli Eight. — McBirlde, Meanchill, and Freser, Austin Heart Hea

Scottistan Weter, which was snepped up by Scottististers for E1.8 billion in June, 10. Saniley Letsura, which bought Sen-seriard-based booke Gus Carrer for E15 prillion in May



## County set join the Nottingham dole queue

HE city of Notting-ham was left without a full-time football manager yesterday when, with unseasonal tim-ing, Notts County dismissed Colin Murphy and Steve

The pair were left to face Christmas on the dole after the struggling Second Division club, at a specially con-vened board meeting, decided to dispense with their

Last Thursday Frank Clark resigned as Nottingham For-est's manager after failing to arrest that club's slide in the Premiership.

Murphy, County's general manager, and Thompson, the team manager, leave Meadow Lane after a 16-month spell in charge during which they guided the club to last season's promotion play-offs. But County, defeated 3-0 at Crewe last Friday, now stand bottom but one in the Second

Division.
Two of their more experienced players, the captain Gary Strodder and Tony Agana, have been put in tem-porary charge of the first

Arsenal have submitted an official complaint to the Foot-ball Association, claiming Ian Wright's sending-off at Nottingham Forest on Saturday was "wrongful dismissal".

Stephen Lodge, the referee, and John Holbrook, the lines-man on whose advice Wright was sent off, will be sent a video of the incident in which

into golf

ENNY DALGLISH yes-

terday accepted an offer of employment

from the Rangers chairman David Murray, but his new

ball club, Rangers will have to pay a fee to the sports agency for his services.

American Football

HE San Francisco 49ers' HE San Francisco deserving in the National Football Conference West is over.

The Carolina Panthers, a team

that did not exist two years ago, held off the Pittsburgh Steelers 18-14 to clinch the title in a dramatic finale. It is

Mark Tran in New York

Patrick Giorn

the Arsenal striker allegedly assaulted Forest's defender Nikola Jerkan.

Earlier yesterday Lodge confirmed that he had dismissed Wright for violent conduct but gave Arsenal some encouragement of the dismissal being expunged, which would spare Wright an automatic three meters here. automatic three-match ban; the referee said he would be prepared to view video evidence "providing that request came from the Football Association".

nie Dumitrescu is to end his unhappy time in English football by moving from West Ham to the Mexican club America Cuidad, according to Romanian reports.

Romanian forward has signed a three-year contract and will move to Mexico next Monday. The fee is just under

Dumitrescu was left out of the squad at Chelsea last Sat-urday, when West Ham's manager Harry Redknapp revealed that the player was talking to a Mexican club. The 27-year-old forward has struggled to adapt to English

football since his move to Tottenham for £2.6 million from Steaua Bucharest after the 1994 World Cup.
Italy will warm up for their World Cup qualifying visit to England in February with a friendly international against

Northern Ireland in Palermo on January 22.
It will be the new Italian coach Cesar Maldini's first in-ternational in charge before facing Glenn Hoddle's team at

them a service. If he does something for them and Rangers accept this service

there will be a reimburse

In practice Dalglish is

likely to have little to do with football, and nothing to do

involved working for Rangers but the offer was rejected. Had that story not leaked out, the entire matter might have been dropped. Given the pub-

the back of the end zone with

29 seconds left. Kordell Stew-art had earlier earned Pitts-burgh a 14-9 half-time lead with an 80-yard touchdown,

the longest scoring run by a quarterback in NFL history.

The Jacksonville Jaguars, the other NFL newcomers, squeezed into the play-offs with a 19-17 victory over the Atlanta Falcons, who would

ment to Carnegie.'

Wembley on February 12.

**Dalglish ranges** 

David Southern, spokesman for Carnegie Sports International, said: "It may be exaggerating the point a little, but Kenny will have to knock on Rangers' door and offer

**Upstarts dethrone 49ers** 

only the third time in 14 years that the 49ers have failed to capture the NFC West.

The Panthers, who had beaten the 49ers twice during beaten the 49ers twice during seconds left.

the regular season, were in-debted on Sunday to Chad Cola, an obscure safety, who made a diving interception at

Beefing up the England cause

"Initially I wanted him in

Paul Allott on how lan Botham has thrown himself into his coaching role with all the enthusiasm of his playing days

UST in case anyone towards cricket instead of needs reminding, the soccer or rugby and given statistics speak for them a hero to worship. themselves: 102 Tests, 383 wickets, 5,200 runs, the fastest ever double hundred in terms of balls faced, 120 catches, the best all-round performance in a Test match - 114 and 13 for 103 - not to mention the number of matches turned and won by his performances.

Ian Botham inspired a generation of cricketers and sup-

porters with his belligerent batting and destructive bowling, during a gloriously vic-torious era in English cricket. been the former chairman of He became Australia's bete selectors Raymond Illing-

It had been speculated six weeks ago that Dalglish would be given a wide-ranging brief as chief scout for Rangers. Now it transpires that, if he does help the football club, Rangers will have to pay a fee to the speculated six weeks ago that Dalglish will be of great value to us," and Southern.

It is believed that Murray's initial approach to Dalglish involved working to be involved working to be a specific to companies such as Air UK and Minutec Holdings. "Kenny's contacts in sport are quite remarkable and he will be of great value to us," in the specific to companies such as Air UK and Minutec Holdings. "Kenny's contacts in sport are quite remarkable and he will be of great value to us," in the specific to the specific to companies such as Air UK and Minutec Holdings. "Kenny's contacts in sport are quite remarkable and he will be of great value to us," in the specific to the spe Botham's performances may an important cog in Lloyd's even have steered them coaching machine.

Rugby Union

Robert Armstrong

DREAM come true"
was how Bath's director of rugby John

Hall described the holders' Pilkington Cup tie at home to

Leicester, after the sixth-

round draw was made at Twickenham yesterday.

Hall was not simply em-ploying a figure of speech. About 12 hours before the

1996 finalists were paired

together, he had a vivid dream which accurately fore-

cast the fixture at the Recrea-tion Ground on January 25.

Beth, cup-winners in 10 of the

soccer or rugby and given them a hero to worship. Botham is still their hero, and more. He is now their inspiration, mentor, coach, and technical adviser. He is pritechnical adviser. He is pri-marily involved with the bowlers and they look upon him with wide-eyed respect, he is seen as an "awesome char-acter" by Darren Gough, "and just having him around the place is enough to inspire us". Botham has wanted to be involved in the preparation of England sides for some time,

volved on the periphery, just hoping that some of his unique talents and enthusiasm would rub off on the bowlers, but now three weeks into this tour his involvement and his impact on the players has been enormous. It's allowed to define his own to be marked a ruch better than I worked much better than ever imagined," says Lloyd. Botham's anthusiasm for the job has taken people by surprise. It was never envisaged that he would attend team meetings, the team meal prior to Test matches or even be present at all net sessions, yet he has a 100 per cent attendance record in all depart-

tor, and sat down with them to tell them so at lunchtime.

which should pull in a 10,500 capacity crowd. Both clubs will look to a good cup run to

keep their season alive after a

we would get Laicester at posed to a midweek evening.
home," revealed Hall. "It The West Country has
came to me in a dream the struck lucky with a second

night before the draw.

"We couldn't have asked for derby between Gloucester a better game. It's absolutely and Bristol at Kingsholm

says, confident that his dual media/coaching role will not cause conflict in or outside the dressing room. "As long

role, mixing his old boister-ous, playful self with dollops of technical input. For instance he has introduced Chris Silverwood to the delights of the slower ball, a ball he could not bowl a week ago but which claimed his third Test wicket on Thursday, prompting an off-mike "Well bowled; son" in the commen-tary box. Indeed, the excita-

them began two days prior to | mony to his input.

"There was no table thumping, just encouragement and I offered a few ideas to put the bowling back on the rails," he to act as an unofficial and friendly coach to any English player who bothered to ask. His agenda through this Test has consisted of an early

round of golf, a 6am tee-off enabling him still to indulge a sporting passion, then to the ground for fine tuning of the boys before play. An encouraging word to Silverwood, advice on Ronnie Irani's back and a small adjustment to his action, a gentle gee-up for Mullally and instructions for Caddick to pitch it up a

Throughout the day there are commentary stints, ac-companied by a long conversation with Lloyd and Em-burey in the players area, which means that at least his job could hardly be described as a return to professional football.

The former Liverpool and Blackburn manager will instead work for a Murray-owned, Edinburgh-based work for a Murray-owned, Edinburgh-based work for a Murray-owned, Edinburgh-based work for a marketing company.

Its customers presently owned, Edinburgh-based work for a Murray-owned, Edinburgh-based work for a marketing company.

At about that time many of involved the excitence of involved and generally supportive of at the end of the day. Twenty wickets taken by England in the Bulawayo Test are testi-

#### Davies slams 'barmy' new rules for relegation and promotion

ALAN DAVIES, Bristol's Acoach, yesterday added his voice to the chorus of disapproval over the Rugby Football Union's decision to revise the relegation rules in Courage League

Twickenham wants to revised pay proposals.

Referees throughout the petween the ninth-placed top five divisions will scrap a proposed play-off between the ninth-placed League One club and the League Two runners-up, instead sending four sides down automatically and

promoting two.
Ninth-placed Bristol's game against eighth-placed Gloucester next Sunday contracted, and to say four are going down is just

The two-week dispute between the Welsh Rugby Union and its referees has been resolved. The Welsh Society of Rugby Union Referees voted by six districts to three in a series of week-end ballots to accept

receive match fees ranging from £125 in the first to £30 in the fifth, and the issue of contracts has been shelved until next summer.

David Robinson, the treasurer of the Rugby Football Union for only a now becomes part of a relegation doglight, and Davies said: "To come to Christmas, halfway through a season when everybody is this year.

### **England** set for a White Christmas

David Hopps in Harare

RAIG WHITE flew into Zimbabwe from Austra-lia last night and is expected to replace Chris Silver-wood in England's side for the second and final Test which starts here on Boxing Day. The Yorkshire all-rounder is pencilled in as third seamer and No. 7 in the batting.

Alan Mullally may find his place also under threat, from Andy Caddick, and Ronnie Irani has ominously been advised by the England coach David Lloyd to remodel his seam-bowling action. The last time such an overhaul was attempted on tour —
Devon Malcolm, South Africa,
last winter — it ended in
disaster.

The England squad have been refreshed by a scenic de-tour to Victoria Falls since the adrenalin rush of Bula-wayo and the first drawn Test wayo and the first drawn Test to end with scores level. His-torians should note that Eng-land's failure to win owed much to umpiring leniency towards a succession of delib-erately wide deliveries from the Zimbabwe attack.

"You bowl wides and you know you do," chorused the England side, with arms out-stretched, to their opponents many hours after the match Several of the Zimbabwe players happily joined in. Heath Streak, who bowled

the final over with England still 13 runs short, admitted during yesterday's flight to Harare: "I was very lucky to get away with that fourth de-livery in the last over. It was pretty wide, but I knew by then that the umpires were prepared to give us some latitude. They were pretty lenient'

Incompetent might be nearer the mark. Ian Robin-son prides himself on being one of the top three umpires in the world, but on this evidence it is a world of his own rather than the one the rest of rather than the one the rest of us live in. He stood immobile as Streak and the leg-spinner Paul Strang pressed legality to the limit. The likes of Dickie Bird would have hopped from foot to foot before declaring that there was a moral line as well as a white

reduced to farce when, an son and the match referee Hanumant Singh remained

ing England's scorer Malcolm Ashton a perplexed man. Since then most of the Eng-

land players have chosen to closet themselves away. Their resentment at "a succession of personal attacks" is such that the team have decided to boycott the traditional Christmas Day pantomime staged by the English media. It is tempting to reply that

as the first three weeks of the tour was a pantomime, another one will be superfluous. But such brooding bodes more ill than England's tour manager John Barclay seems able to comprehend.

Apart from the fact that this is a narrow attitude to touring, and should therefore be discouraged, the resulting boredom and tension will prospects of England improv-ing their dismal overseas record. Sorry, lads, shouldn't have said "dismal"; there goes the New Year's Eve drinks party...

• Alan Wells, 35, the former Sussey captain vestorday

Sussex captain, yesterday joined Kent on a five-year contract, with the 37-year-old batsman Neil Taylor moving in the opposite direction.

## Team talk

The independent news and reports service 0891 33 77+

Arsenal Aston Villa Birm. City Bisackburn Botton Brentford Burnley Chelsea Covenity City Derby County Everton Hudd. Town	06 11 34 21 38 24 31 08 17 28 05 32	Leeds United Leicester City Liverpool Man. City Man. United Middlesbrough Millwell Newcastle Utd Norwich City Notm. Forest OPR	19 03 35 04 02 01 23 29 16 18 13 25	Sheffield United Sheffield Wed. Southhampton Stoke City Sunderland Tottenham Hot. West Ham Wimbledon Wolves Celtic Rangers	14 20 30 27 07 12 26 37 09 10
CLEANUTE BY MES, 15	MARK I	heart		DACTIVE	_

The Guardian CINTERACTIVE

# Bath can expect in excess of £100,000 in gate receipts from an 8,500 capacity crowd but there is a strong possibility that this lucrative encounter may have to be postponed to February. If Leicester win their Heineken European Cup semi-final against Toulouse at Welford Road on January 4 they must play either Cardiff or Brive in the final in Cardiff on January 25. In that event Hall is likely to insist on another weekend date, as op-

past 13 years, will be marginal favourites.

"This morning when I came into the office, I told everyone other weekend date, as op-

Bath in dreamland

THERE-DAY MATCH (Port Elizabelt, SA): India 336 (S Ganguly 97, V Rathore 71, S Tendellay 62) and 130-2 (V Rathore 64, R Dravid 50no). Eastern Province 322-4 dec (K Weesels 103no, P Aram 81). Match AYON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Wimbledon 2, Chaisea 1, Leagus Cupt Pestpound: Oxford Util v Swindon.

Basketball

Resuits

Soccer

Basketball
state Clevelant 100 Utah 94; indiana 111,
Toronto 22; Boston 93, Charlotte 102;
Golden State 97, LA Citopers 91; Seattle
33, Dallas 79; Vancouver 91, Washington
97, Leading standingss Statisms Conferences Atlantic Edvisions 1, Migmi (W19,
L7, Pot.731; G80); 2, New York (18-7720-5); 3, Washington (12-13-480-68),
Central Bivisions 1, Chicego (23-3285-0); 2, Detroit (20-5-800-89; 3, Cleveland (17-8-893-5), Western Cambradead Midwest Divisions 1, Houston
(21-5-903-0); 2, Utah (20-5-907-5); 3, Dal128 (3-16-300-110); Pandito Divisions 1,
Sestile (20-8-880-0); 2, LA Letters (19-61679-80; 3, Portland (14-13-519-5).

Chess
THE GRAND PROX: 1, K Arkell (Dorby); 2, M Hebden (Lelosater); 3, M Adams (London), Prisuate 1, S Laile (Sutton); 2, H Hant (Oxford); 3, K Arakhenila-Grant (Edit-burgh); U-ga L McShare (London), U-16: C Dunlop (Blacksury), B-14: A Longon (Manchester), U-12: M Broomfeld (London), U-16: C P Timas (Meldistone), Armaker Price 1, P Kally (Hendon); 2, G Bishop (Lewisham); 3, M Kobyša (Whod Green), GWOMENGEM (Nach), Reseat Peuer A Shirov (Sp) X, A Oxischuk (Otr) X, J Timmen (Nach) 1, V A Oxischuk (Otr) X, J Timmen (Nach) 1, V A Oxischuk (Otr) X, J Timmen (Nach) 1, V A Oxischuk (Otr) X, J Timmen (Nach) 1, V Korchnol (Switz) 0; L van Waly (Neth) X, N Short (Eng), Landerer Timmen 4; Short 3, Alsen Hodgson 1X.

Cricket

dec (K Weesels 103no, P Amm 51), Malch drawn. SHIPPIELD SHIELD: South Australia 255 (J Brayshaw 73, D Lehmann 52) and 381–7 (J Siddona 80, G Blewett 68, J Gillesple 55), Western Australia 550–8 das (J Langer 274no, D Martyn 104), Match drawn.

brilliant; the marketing people here think so and I do too."

that this lucrative encounter may have to be postponed to February. If Leicester win their Heineken European Cup

they must play either Cardiff or Brive in the final in Cardiff

Bath can expect in excess of

SUPPERLEAGUE Ayr 3, Noninghem 3 (of); Cardit 5, Manchestar 1; Newcastie 6, Bassingstone 4; Shelfeld 7, Bracknedt 2. PRIMITER LEAGUE Kingston 1, Stough 5; Machael 2, Culidiard 4; Peterborough 2, Tellord 15; Solihuli 5, Swindon 2, Montresoni Prathieur LEAGUE; Slackbur 5, Whitey 8, Mills 17, Promits 2, Education 1, Sulphan 1, Swindon 2, Montresoni Prathieur LEAGUE; Slackbur 5, Whitey 8, Mills 2, Calcago 2, Philasisphia 2 (or); Phomits 2, Calcago 2, Philasisphia 2 (or); Phomits 2, Calcago 7, Landing standings: Eastern Gonferences Worthwest Ubrisions 1, Buttain Will, Li4, 17, GP105, GASS, Philippin 16-16-8-19-112-35), Administration 16-16-8-19-112-35), Administration 16-16-16-13-10-04-05); 2, Florida (13-8-7-104-60-45); 3, NY Rangers (18-14-513-100-41), Western Conferences Casting Bivision 1, Dalas (21-10-3-98-78-95); 2, Dariot (18-11-6-19-12-110-120-33), Paulie Divisions 1, Colcago (19-10-6119-82-43); 2, Vancouver (16-15-1-100-88-33); 3, Edmonton (14-18-4-114-114-32).

NPLs Battlmore 21, Houston 24, Settalo 20, Kanass City S: Charoline 18, Pittsburgh 14; Cincinnali 31, Indisappolis 24, Green Bay 38, Minnésott 16; Jackstonville 19, Attacts 17: NY Jets 28, Mismid 31; Philadelpiha 29, Artzona 19: Tampa Bay 34, Chicago 19; Cokland 21, Seattle 29; Cuites 10, Wesh-Ingion 37; San Diego 16, Donver 10, Lead-

ling standings: Assertate: Conferences
Basters Divisions 1, New England (W11,
L5, PF418, PA315); 2, HSuffaio (10-8319-265); 3, Indiampolic (9-7-317-334),
Central Divisions 1, Pittsburgh (10-6344-257); 2, Justemonite (9-7-25-355); 3, Gincinnet (9-8-372-369), Western DivIsloes 1, TipOmer (13-3-359-275); 2 Kansas City (9-7-237-300); 3, San Diego (8-8310-376), Medicard Conferences Basters
Divisions 1, Dollan (10-8-269-250); 2, Philadelphia (10-8-363-341); 3, Washington (9-7-29-359-35); 3, Chicago (7-8-28-305),
Meastern Divisions 1, Ceroling (12-4374-243); 3, St. Louis (9-10-303-409),
("-Clinched play-off bertir, 1=Clinched
Division title; 11=Clinched Conference
stie).

**Boxing Day** fixtures

Soccer

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Chelsde: Blackburn v Newcasite; Leeds' v Coventry. Liverpool v Leisester: Middestrough v Evertor; Notem Fores: v Man Unt: Shell Wed v Arsenal (5.45); Sunderland v Derby; Tottenhem v Southempton (12.0); Whibledon v West Hern (12.0). NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Fivel Divisions Bradford C v Shell Utd; Grimeby v Botton; josefich v C Palaze; bign C v Port Vale; Oldham v Birmingham (1.0); Portsmouth v Swindon (a-t); GPR v Norwich (12.0); Reading v West Broto; Southerd v Charitan (12.0); Stoke v Barneley; Transmer v Hodersteid: Wolverhampton v Ordord Utd. Second Division: Blackpool v Burnley (a-t); Brits (12.0); Stoke v Barneley; Transmer v Hodersteid: Wolverhampton v Ordord Utd. Second Division: Blackpool v Burnley (a-t); Brits V Britson (12.0); Stoke v Barneley (12.0); Stoke V Barneley

ibil C v Shripwabury (12.0); Bury v Craws:
Chastarfield v Rochesham (12.0); Gillingham v Laton (12.0); Misham v Laton (12.0); Misham v Sacuport v Notice C (12.0); Western v Sacuport v Contacte (12.0); Carried v Targusy, Ca

#### RACING: 11 CARDS FOR BOXING DAY

Chris Hawkins gives a confident vote to last season's winning team in the King George Vi Chase

## Dunwoody is the man for the job

HE King George VI
Chase, now sponsored
by Pertemps, has a
habit of throwing up
mutiple winners and One Man will join exalted company if he is victorious for the second year running on Box-

ing Day.
Pendil, Captain Christy, Silver Buck, Wayward Lad, Desert Orchid and The Fellow all won it in successive seasons and, on the evidence of the brilliance he has shown so far. One Man would not be out of place among such fam-

Four of the six on this list went on to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup — Pendil and Wayward Lad being the two

that missed out.
Like this pair, One Man has
so far looked much better over three miles on a flat cir-cuit than over three and a quarter around Cheltenham's undulations, and it would be no surprise if chasing's ulti-mate prize eluded him.

That is beside the point at the moment, however, and with doubts about several of his opponents on Thursday he has an obvious chance of landing a second King

George. His virtues have long been extolled but just to remind those who may not be fam-iliar with the top class chasing scene, this is a spring-heeled, fast-jumping grey in the Desert Orchid mould. Kempton suited Desert Or-

chid down to the ground and he won four King Georges, two of them with Richard Dunwoody in the saddle.

Dunwoody, of course, part-nered One Man last year, when the race was run at Sandown, and stands on the threshold of four victories which would elevate him above Fred Winter and Tommy Carmody, the only other riders with three wins to their credit. It is widely assumed that

One Man is suited by courses such as Kempton, although on his only previous run here two seasons ago he fell at the 12th in the Racing Post Chase. That is the only time he has hit the deck in his 14-race chasing career, although he once unseated Tony Dobbin

With Dunwoody, the supreme artist, in the saddle the pairing are as near to pectry in motion as one can get in



Leading duo . . . Richard Dunwoody and One Man will be odds-on to follow up last season's victory in the King George VI Chase

ries about the ground for last season's Grand National winner. Taking last term's Chelten-

this rough and tumble game; it would be ironic and very sad if they failed to get round.

Assuming they stand up what is to beat them?

Rough Quest is certainly the best of the challengers but Terry Casey has voiced wor who will be 11 at five turn of the weer, has improved both.

"doggy" and not keen on a struggle but, ridden for a late burst as he was by Mick Fitz-gerald in the National, he can unlessh a telling turn of speed.
Indeed if he comes to the

last within a length of One physically and mentally with Man we could be in for an epic and those having backed. There was once a school of the favourite at a skinny

price will be shaking. The tac | cial ratings is around three tics on One Man will surely | stones inferior to One Man, to be to try and draw Rough Quest's sting and get him "at it" some way from home.

Strong Promise is a fasci-

Wincanton

take on top class opponents at levels at this stage of his career but one thing in his favour is his liking for fast nating runner. He is only a ground.

five-year-old and only one If Rough Quest runs he may

horse of that age, Manicou in
1950, has won the race.

It is asking a great deal of strong Promise, who on offiStrong Promise, who on offihomour.

## See More looks the business in Feltham Chase

Slooks best of the rest on a Kempton card that may be short on numbers but not on quality, writes Chris Hawkins.

Paul Nicholls, the trainer, thinks the world of this young horse who goes for the Feltham Novices' Chase after running a fine race in Ireland where he went down by a length to Dorans Pride who is unbeaten over fences.

They are talking about going for the Cheltenham Gold Cap with the winner so See More Business (1.10) must be pretty smart, although he will have to be to the chest Agreement who immed beat Aardwolf who jumped well when beating Major Summit at Sandown

Only four go to post for the Wayward Lad Novices Chase but all are prolific winners. Potter's Bay is the likely favourite but I just prefer Mister Drum (2.45) who loves a right-handed track and has been winning

The two met at Ayr last month with The Grey Monk, eased down, coming out on top by five lengths. Jodami has a 51b pull but that may not be enough. The Grey Monk has since found Coome Hill too good for him over a longer trip

in the Hennessy at Newbury but that may not turn out to be a bad effort. call It A Day is also on the upgrade but this three miles and a furlong may

stretch his stamina.

David Nicholson trains
Call It A Day and also sends
General Pershing and The
Captain's Wish on the long
haul from his Cotswold

base. General Pershing, who loves the mud, has been off the course for a long time. having previously been trained by Gordon Rich-ards, and has at least one tough opponent in the in-form Easby Joker (2.45) in

the Supermaster Chase. There is a saying that one track and has been winning with something in hand.

At Wetherby, the big race is the Rowland Meyrick Chase in which Jodami shoulders top weight. It will be a fine performamnee if he can see off some aspiring youngsters on these terms and The Grey Monk (2.25), in receipt of 16lb, looks the one to beat him again.

There is a saying that one should never back the top weight in a handicap hurdle but I am flying in the face of that perceived wisdom in selecting The Captain's Wish (3.15) in the Boxing Day Hurdle. He deserves to get his head in front and made the hattrick seeking Be Frank pull out all the stops at Warwick.

#### All-weather win forecast for well-weighted Cavina

row and Buntingdon at 7.30am on Thursday. If the worst comes to the If the worst cames to the worst, punters will be hoping all-weather racing lives up to

its name.

Lingfield have managed to stage an extra Boxing Day meeting at short notice, and yesterday the British Horser-acing Board sanctioned additional fixtures for Southwell and Wolverhampton on Fri-day and Saturday,

**Lingfield AW Flat** 

pretty well in the circum-stances and there looks to be The threat of frost hangs one attractive bet in the shape of Cavina (3.20) in the shape of Cavina (3.20) in the two-mile Reindeer Handicap. Neil Graham's mare has been struggling from a high handicap mark over hurdles recently, but she looks well arough treated on the form enough treated on the form she showed to win by by four lengths over the Lingileid course and distance last year. Wottashambles won well here last time, but it is far from certain he will be in the mood to perform like that

> ge Creeping (2.20) and Cedes Le Passage (12.50) will be at short odds, but should be hard to beat.

again.

### Kempton card with guide to the form

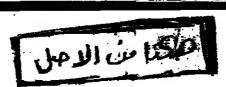
12.40 Kallauk	1.16 Dae Nun
1.10 See More Business (Mit)	2.46 Mister Drum
1.40 Albemba	8.15 Petterrood
Buing Good, & Deputes billubors.	
Piperes la brocheta alter horse's some des	onto daga simor intent Hill authay.
12,40 cost JOB NOVICE HUMBLE	9m 67,963
101 11111 KAHLASH (40) (D) M Pipe (	6-11-10A P McCoy exnon 4-11-0R Hoghes
102 (-21 DANESOLÍS (21) (3) MÉCH 100 2 DRIBERT ORBES (21) (317)	R Heenen 7-11-5
104 1/245/5- PRONANS PLUTTER (2005) 106 LEADING SPIRIT C Well 4-	) R Homon 7-11-5 III Williams III Williams III D Estroy III - 11-5 III Williams III III III III III III III III III I
106 Q MANSUR (2:1) N Henderson	n 4-11-5 E A Pleasantid
107 PG MIGHT TEARS / 213 S Www	toren 4-11-5
108 400-09 PALLADRIM MOY (20) Mrs	Ger Kelleway 5-11-5 L Regueids s J Rotter 6-11-6 C Branch rat 6-11-6 B Demonstry
111 SAMBARISHU U RICHIDO	4-11-0
112 2-12 SECRET SPHENG (26) (D) ( 113 004-12 HOOR BALL LADY (24) N (	(MF) P Hodger 4-11-5
FOP PORM TIPS: Kalizab 8, Danagold 7, Pr	
	ton, 10-1 Desert Green, 12-1 Danagold, Leading Spirit,
Becret Spring, Nordance Prince, 20-1 Manuur PORM GUIDE - KARASH Marie all, mishis	13 rate 2 out, seply, won by 77 from Herbert Lodge (Chellen
žm 1 10v nov bd., Gd-Fesi.	
(Windsor 2m nov hdf, Gd).	well, best DESERT CREEK (toroid), weakened run-in, i
DAMEGOLD: Headway 3 out, led last, ridden o	nd, was by 71 from Safep (Windsor Sm nor Id), Gd). Bal, one pace, 31 3rd of 15 behind High Warrior (Massbury
nov hall, Gd-8fg.	•
sacrigar servaren Lag 2 aug, nagano era no e: Sd-Fer).	nira close borne, 119 Cmd to Yet Again (Taumton Brott nov
Channel 4	
1.10 PERTENDS RECEUTIONS PAR	THE SHIP PRINTERS HOWER CHASE See 122,000
201 SPPP-11 AARDWOLF (18) (D) C Bro	xxis 5-11-7 G Bracky.
192 43-31F NOCKNOUSK BOY (12) H 1	Tyriston-Davies 6-11-7
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acret Spring, Nordance Prince	, 20-1 Marsur	Well Desert Greek, 13-1 Desemble ut, seally, with by 77 from Herbe best DESERT GREEK (pavelin), w ron by 71 from Seibes (Wandsor Sin me pacs, 31 3rd of 15 behald Hob	13 remains
CHINANCE PERIOR Led 2 or Iv hal, Gd-91). Benef SPERIOR Led 2 out, but I-Fra).	i urtil headed this, o majed and no units o	one pace, 31 Brd of 15 behind Hot Some howe, 119 End to Yet Again (	Marrior (Hewbury 2m Teumon 2mil per ind.,
hannel 4			
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	PORT GUIDE - SEE MORE PROBLETS: Led 2rd, headed before lest, no store fiet, 1/2rd of 8 behind Dorses Pride (Februhouts 2coff nov ch. Ykf).
	Price (Febrytouse 2mf nov.ch, Yjd), AAMENFOLD Led to 8th, led 12th to 17th, led 3 out, all out, work by shind from Mejor Summit (Sections
	Scot 10) cts, GdB.  PERE TEV NOW Held up, chancel leader 5 out, led lest, jokeed on line, deed heat for with Herede Not To.
	(Keraptort 20x pay ch, Gd-S45).
	BOCKNOUSK BOYs Lad 46: until half 8th behind Foodbroker Star (LingSeld Str. nov.ch, Gd-SS). Previously
	was by 25 from Foodbroker Star (Newbury 25m ch, Gd-65). MATCHAM NOYL Led 3 cut, headed list, led again Set, ran on well, won by 10 from Welcome Call (Newbury
	2m nov cts, Gds.
	SCLOROFTS DANCERs Classed leaders from Str., affort 3 cut, hept on, 25 2nd of 35 behind Spanly Gayle.  Newcauthe 2ndf nov cis, Cdb.
	Channel 4
-	4.40
•	1.40 MITTORY PRINCIPLES HANGICLE SERVICE SERVI
	THE PLANT CHALMS CATHON I ON S. ST. 12
y B	308 27-1121 CRAI-10 (13) (2) J Old 8-10-12 G System 308 5257-52 ALEMENTOR (10) (5) May J Cool 7-10-10 T Kent
•	304 SZIP-5 HITHMANIC (87) (D) J Fox 5-10-0 SF-
2	306 P1367-0 PYRIMIC DAMCE (\$1) M Hayes 6-10-0 B Styrme
hd.	TOP POSE TIPS Chair-Ye S, Albumine ?
	Buttings 11-10 Chai-Yo, 7-2 Albanises, 4-1 Yet Again, 7-1 Intermedic, 5-1 Thinking Twice, 23-1 Pyrithic Dance
	FORM CONDIT - CRAN-YO, Went lind I out, challenging on bit when left closer land, won by 12 from Repaireur
	(Chellestern Smill Scp. hdl, Gd).
	Additionable Channel Spaders, and 2 out, bracked best, stratile to quicken, \$1 2nd of 5 behind Most Equal forestranges 2nd 50 feet had 64 500.
	YET AGAIN: Led lest, other out, best Lucia Forte 19 (Tauston Statt nov led, Gd).
	Principles 2011(9) http://dx.doi.org/10.1001/1
	Annual of ask and and
	Channel 4
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	2.15 PHITTERS COM SECRET VI CHARE IN COUNTY
	401 4420-25 BARTON BANK (40) (CD) D Nictolson (D-11-10
	AREA 15150 4 TER SHIP I DESIGNATED AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN
	404 2127-6 MARTINEM LAD (20 let J Pimm 1-11-10) M Williamson eas   F7116-1 ONE MARI (20) (20) 4 Fichards 3-17-10   M Williamson 406   F7116-1 ONE MARI (20) (20) 4 Fichards 3-17-10   M Removed 407   S7121 STROME PROMEM (20) 7 Casey 10-11-10   M Removed 407   S7121 STROME PROMEM (20) 0 Chichard 6-17-10   K Gende 408   S717-12 TRYPHOR AGAINST (40) (40) 0 Cased 3-17-10   D Pecil
	406 2F121-1 BOUGH QUEST (8) (CO) T Creey 10-11-10 E A Propertie
1	407 121121 STRONG PROMISE (SS) G Hutbert 5-11-10
	TOP PORM THRU Case Man &, Strong Promise 7, Result Great 6
	Martin A Thomas American St. Charles St. Company Brown St. Company
**	POWER GENERAL PROCESS, RESIDENCE AND PROCESS, WON by 71 from SARTON SART (Savely) (Wetherby Santi ch, Gold, Ball. Santi Should (Savely) (Wetherby Santi ch, Gold, Ball. Santi Should (Savely) (Savely) (Wetherby Santi ch, Gold, Balling Destin
	(Trementy SMT) CI, CO).  NOVOM COUNTY Headway 7th, led note Erick, won Politocope Smill Tily Nov Ind., Qui-Sk, busing Dentin
	of Estronal R.
	STRONG PROMESTA Lad 7(b, chalcous op Salt, ran de well, was by 4) from Major Bell (Ascot 2nd)1 Wy hop ch., Gd-Feril.
	GG-Froj. BARTOR BARRO Latest, every chance 2 out, soon beatinn, 141 Sin of 12 behind Challenger de Luc
1	(Chelterium 2mil'i 10y hap ob, Gd-Paj. TRY 2008 AGARIK: Hendwy 7th, west 2nd 5 out, ran on well Sat, 13f 2nd of 7 behind Belmont 15ng, with MR:
1	MULLIGAN (gave 98) 128 away 40 (Chapalow San bop ch, 58).
	Channel 4
	2.45 METRORE DEBOK BETTERNATIONAL WAYEARS LAD HOTICE CHASE 2m of 110 min
1	210,309
1	E01 9-2571 GREENBACK (17) P Hobin 5-11-7
1	802 11-211 MISTIN DRIVIN (20) (0) M Wikiness 7-13-7 R Democraty 802 12-111 POTTER'S BAY (14) (0) D Microson 7-13-7 A Benefity
ı	903 121-111 POTTER'S BAY (14) (C) D Microson 7-11-7 A Magaine 904 271-151 SUBLINE FILLOW (22) N Henderson 6-11-7 A Physical
	TOP FORM TIPS: Minter Draw 8, Petter's Nay 7
J	Buttless 5-4 Poten's Bay, 9-4 Mater Drum, 4-1 Greenback, 7-1 Sublime Fellow 4 research
1	MARKE COURSE - POSTERIE BAYE IN LOUCH, lad 18th, relatives 19th, ram on well, you by IT from Totale
1	Whiteless (Sundown 200710y nov ct., Gd).
. 1	makeral, precent Jamped right, made all, clear from 3 est, wee by 91 from Bold Bose (Market Resen Jami'i 10 year ch, Gd).
	GENERAL MAN AND SERVICE SERVICE AND
ł	SK).  SKIL MANY FIRE LOTTE: Clear 4 out, won by it trans Forest townsion (Southwell 2m now ch. Chi).
1	SOUTH LEFT CASE And A control of the south Library South Control of the control o
1	3.15 parame carce cum extensive surere s 116/4 CE.PIE
ı	and SL/2220 MYTTOM'S CHOICE (280 (180 D Michigan 5-11-40)
ı	and 35-7124 LANGOOFFIE CAST (D) P Natrolls 8-11-7
ı	905 1187-01 CASTLE COURAGEOUS (12) (0) Ledy Herries 3-11-7
1	and 1/16-85 SCORE (18) (b) C Mariott 8-10-11
ı	806 30-6312 TIM (16) (C) J Jeniore 5-18-4 M A Pleagerald
ł	SOL OF AN ANGENIER DATATION WESSERVED I LANGE TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY
Į	908 (95-612 MCK THE MEAK (18)-(C) / Upon 7-10-4
ł	10P POINT TIPS: Byttes's Casion 2, The 7, Landensia 6
ı	Spellings 19-4 Mytion's Cholos, 4-1 Latentowns, 5-1 Ten, 6-1 Mick The Beals, 7-1 Castle Courageous, 6-1 Ulure, Columny Boy, 12-1 Pastinetod, 16-1 Ealing Court
1	
J	PROBES GRADE - NYTTOWYS CHOCKE; Channel loader, led Ste, bearind before last, one passe, 29 3rd of 9   behind Batanak (Namelak 2007 ben but. Gd).
ı	Debins Submek (Warmick 2007 top but, Gd).  LAMBOOWTHE Washened Soct, pected most, 25 4th of 15 beliefed Garminit Tools (Chapatow See Just 1840.
ı	MICK, THE MILES Headway St., see pace from 2 cet, 61 Sed of 6 behind Codougoid (Chapeter 2m 11 My hop hd., Std.
1	CASTLE COUNTAGED UP: Flort 4 cut. soon risting and beater, 20 last of 4 behind Blaze Army (Doncaster )
	2 Smithen hd. G6-Fm).
· J	SULTRIBLE (of the 2nd, led 2 cut, headed approaching lest, 12 like of an behind Elbury (Chellechum 3m1 10y http ledt, Gd),
I	GOLDBIRTY 90% Lad bristly after Str. weekened before 2 cut. 20 6th of 14 to Tep Javain Piewton Abbut
_	* 2007 atrait Prop 201, 205.

12.45 Mrs lim 1.15 Bedantan	2.20 Southemeter: 2.50 Septible Sumbl	
1.45 Distail Dancer	2.00 Housean Mour	
Saling Good to firm. * Dage	dag Ministra.	7.1
12.45 FATHER CHES	THAN PLLES HOVICE HUNDLE 470 in Elect	•
1 1- RANGER E	CPT-MSS (2024) Miss H (Calgh) 10-10	S Panton S Sector
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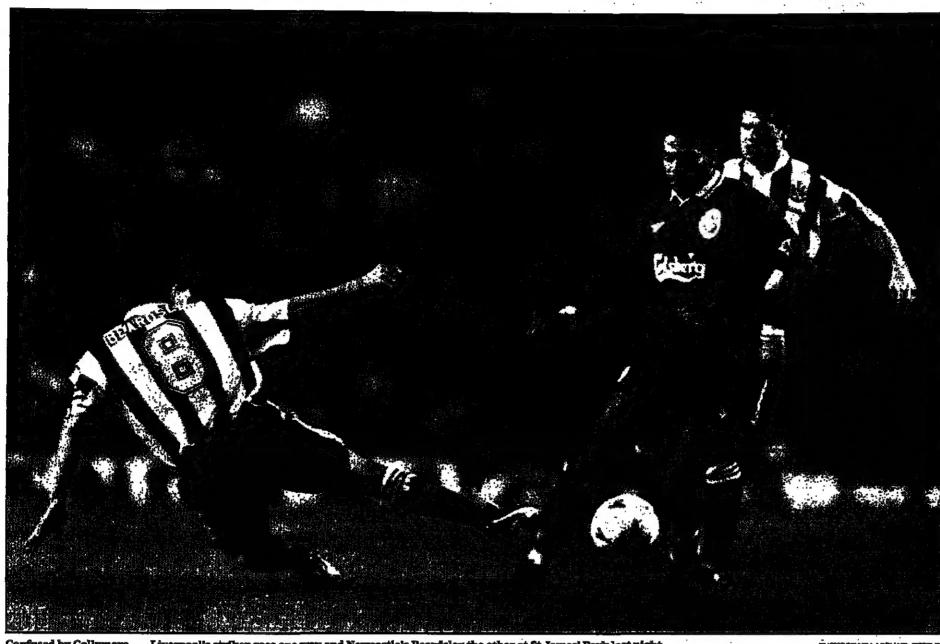
Nottingham loses another manager, page 13 Boxing Day racing details, pages 14 and 15

Bowling along with Botham, page 13 One Man looks for his double, page 14

## ortsGuardian

Premiership: Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 1

## Fowler widens the gap



Confused by Collymore . . . Liverpool's striker goes one way and Newcastle's Beardsley the other at St James' Park last night

## **Shearer strikes but Reds** go three points clear

David Lacey

LAN SHEARER, with his 13th goal of the sea-son, and Robbie Fowler, with his 19th, responded to United and Liverpool shared an absorbing match rich in

The holiday programme will settle nothing in the Premiership. Far from singing, the fat lady has yet to clear her throat for the first

night's match, in prospect at apparent. Straight from the least, carried a certain air of kick-off Collymore ran at the

Memories of the seven-goal extravaganza at Anfield in April, won 4-3 by Liverpool their cues at St James' Park after Newcastle's defence had last night as Newcastle failed to match the excellence strong. That result had sig-nalled the finish of last season's title hopes at St James' Park; now even a dull 1-0 home win would at least keep them alive.

Within five seconds, howdition.
Yet for Newcastle last task had become ominously

finality. A failure to win, let alone a defeat, would suggest a chance which ended with a premature and to another title challenge was not far off. a chance which ended with Peacock hooking the ball out from under the bar. Fowler had been given offside but that hardly diminished the significance of the moment for Newcastle's defenders. The quick knock-out hav-ing failed, Liverpool resumed

their patient passing, seeking McManaman in the usual channels as well as trying to use the pace and penetration of Collymore and Fowler.

Newcastle responded in kind but at a quicker tempo.

Lee and Beardsley soon began to find space behind Thomas and Bearnes, opening up the

ola. St James' Park should have celebrated in the 10th minute. Slack Liverpool covering left Ferdinand unmarked as Gillespie, Lee and Beardsley worked the ball in to him from the right. Ferdinand turned but lost his foothis ing and did not make proper contact; unlike Ruddock, who

was lucky to get away with

blocking a centre from Gilles-pie with a hand. Newcastle's vulnerability to any sort of half-decent cen-tre began to show itself as McAteer produced some telling crosses from the right. Al-bert's head intercepted one that Srnicek was never going to reach and when the goal keeper did get to the next the weakness of his punch might have led to a crisis.

McManaman and Colly-

kind but at a quicker tempo.

Lee and Beardsley soon began
to find space behind Thomas
and Barnes, opening up the
wings for Gillespie and Gininjury and hurt in that open-

ing incident, was limping and | this was not his night. Within after 28 minutes Liverpool two minutes such thoughts found themselves badly in need of a goal.

First Wright was cautioned for clattering into Ferdinand from behind. Then Ferdinand for clattering into Ferdinand the tend to be. McManaman from behind. Then Ferdinand turned up unnopposed near met Ginola's cleverly flighted the left-hand byline and tree-kick with a header which tree-kick with a header which bounced down fiercely from the bar. Shearer's predatory instincts did the rest, and Newcastle were ahead.

Liverpool then passed up a flurry of chances to equalise. McManaman, sent in by Bjornebye, took the ball past Smicek but shot into the side Fowler again were off target. Newcastle meanwhile had lost Ginola, suffering a calf in-jury and giving way to Clark

10 minutes before the inter-val. On the stroke of balf-time they also lost their lead.

When Fowler, turning sharply past kiliott in the area, missed the goal yet again one began to suspect

had proved idle.

The goal was a simple affair, as many against Newcas-

Fowler, equally unattended, had time to collect a ball which arrived behind him before scoring with a low shot. In the 48th minute Shearer, turning beautifully, sent Fer-dinand past the last Liverpool defender, Babb, with only James barring the way. Ferdi-nand tried to place the ball past him but the well-advanced goalkeeper stopped the shot. Then, as James turned aside shots from Shearer and Lee, Liverpool

Shearer and Lee, Livergood were glad to hang on.
Resecantie United Schleck; Watson, Pescock, Abert, Elikott, Gibespie, Lee, Beardsley, Ginola, (Clark, 37min), Ferdinand (Kitson, 55), Shearer, Livergook James; Ruddock, Wright, Bebb, McAlzer, Thomas, Barmes, Bjernebye, McAlzer, Thomas, Barmes, Bjernebye, McAlzer, Thomas, Barmes, Bjernebye, McMarasman, Cofymore, Fowler.

## Armstrong, endurance and intimacy



Richard Williams

all and sundry, but particularly to Lance Armstrong, the 25ear-old American bicycle acer who was discovered three months ago to be suffer ing from testicular cancer and is currently recovering from chemotherapy at his home in Austin, Texas.

The latest reports suggest that he will be back on a biks early in the new year. Some time in January he will fly to Perpignan to attend the presentation of his new team, Coffdis, in which he was due to join two other top riders, Fony Rominger and Maurizic Fondriest, under the aegis of Cyrille Guimard, the former team manager of Bernard Hin ault and Greg LeMond. His contract has been put on hold, ince no one knows when or even if he will race again. But that, at this stage, is hardly

Most of us first noticed Four de France and there was a brieffuss about a new Amer can prodigy. A few days later, when the race reached the high Alps, he entered the unown. One night in the ski station of Serre-Chevalier, after a day of being nursed to the finish by his team-ma be lay exhausted in his bunk

and talked about giving up.
Armstrong doesn't look like
a quitter. His chunky build
speaks of his background as a year, on a cold and wet day in Oslo, he redeemed himself by hammering round while others were crashing all over the place to take the road racing world championship, rele-gating none other than Miguel Indurain to second place.

But the big stage races make unique demands, and I thought of his plight on that evening in Serre-Chevalier as I looked through the pages of a new book called An Intimate Portrait of the Tour De France (Buonpane Publications, £29.99), a collection of remarkable black-and-white photographs, mostly drawn from the archives of L'Equipe, with a highly coloured text by Phi-

lippe Brunel. There are many pictures here of men at the end of their

massages, or alone with their quiet despair. Fausto Coppi sits with his feet in the bidet. Louison Bobet stares into a glass of wine. Federico Baha montes perches on his suit-case at Dunkirk station, waiting for the train home. Gino Bartali accepts a raincoat around his shoulders as he

This is not a history book; its only appeal to statisticians is a list of all the winners since 1903. Instead it sees the Tour through the personalities of its leading performers, the men who have held the unoffi cial title of *patron* and those who have challenged them.

You would expect the presence of Anquetil, Merckx, Hin-ault and Indurain — the fivetime winners. And of Coppi, Bobet, Fignon and LeMond. But the real fascination is in the portraits of the less familiar figures, starting with Ottavio Bottecchia, the winner in 1924 and 1925

A bricklayer from Porden-one, in the footbills of the Doiomites, Bottecchia fought in the first world war against the Austrians. Three times he was captured, and three times

His post-war cycling career was slow to gather pace but in 1924, aged 30, he led the Tour from start to finish and became a star - aithough when he emerged to greet the admir-ers at Milan's Central Station,

for his anti-fascist sympathies, which attracted threats against his life. And when he was found dead by the side of a road near his home one midsummer day in 1927, covered in blood after apparently fall-ing from his machine during a training run, the rumours

Was it an accident, or had he been assassinated? Decades later the death-bed confessions of a contract killer and a local priest reawakened interest in the tragedy but failed to provide a definitive

answer. No matter. We may never know the truth about Bottec-chia's death, but here is the essence of his life. In a maize field somewhere in France, he mends a puncture. He sprays his dust-covered face from a soda bottle. And he joins his fellow competitors at a feeding station, taking the shade in a tableau vicant which, as Brunel says, could have been executed by Renoir: an image capturing sport's beauty, and

## Ravanelli outburst adds to Boro woes

The state of the Company of the State of the

-abrizio ravanelli took an unseasonal ball yesterday to ensure that Middlesbrough's sea-son of rancour continued

coaching methods, in an industry of money but as for explosiveness and reaction time they cannot match the Italians. In socious manager Bryan Robson. manager Bryan Robson. Speaking on an Italian

TV sports programme, Ra-vanelli said he trained alone on Teesside using charts supplied by his pre-

ums are nice but the rest is just not there . . . there are no gyms and you don't practise very much. I am the festive period.

The Italy striker accused

Premiership clubs of having inadequate training faculture and a different culture and a different cult

Middlesbrough paid fight for Premiership survival.

1 summer, making him the highest-paid footballer watton and one I did not ex-

— who only three months ago was being linked with Manchester United — is now clearly ill at ease with the prospect of a prolonged

pect," he conceded. "Before signing with Middles-brough, promises were made to me and they have not been kept."



Ravanelli . . . 'trains alone'

#### Shearer beaten by Sammer to Europe's Golden Ball

ALAN SHEARER, so often on target for England and Newcastle, was yesterday beaten to the Golden Ball, the European Footballer of the Year award, by Matthias

world record-breaking trans-fer to St James' Park. Borussia Dortmund sweeper, is the fifth German winner of Year award, by Matthias Sammer of Germany.
Sammer, who led Germany to the European Championship title in the summer, topped the poll with 144 votes, beating the Brazilian Ronaldo by three votes with Shearer in third place with 107.

Newcastle's £15 million striker was the top scorer of Euro 96 and also scored 36

**Double Prize Crossword, G2 page 13** 

A GET TOGETHER



The MALT



